

## County Taxes to Jump \$11.5 Mil.; Westfield to See \$1.8-Mil. Increase

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

ELIZABETH—Union County taxes will increase by \$11.5 million, or 4.38 percent, to \$276.7 million to support a \$469-million proposed executive budget unveiled last week by County Manager George Devanney.

The county's tax levy has risen \$126 million over the past 10 years and 60 million since 2005, according to county budget documents. Based on the executive budget, taxes will increase in all 21 towns ranging from a low of \$83,322 in Kenilworth (not including Winfield) to a high of \$1.8 million in Westfield.

This year, \$28.1 million will be collected in Westfield; Scotch Plains will pay \$15.3 million in county taxes, an

increase of \$812,514 over last year; Fanwood will pay \$4.5 million, up \$330,333; Mountainside's tax will be \$6.9 million, a hike of \$226,044, with Garwood paying \$2.6 million, an increase of \$223,210. Cranford's county tax will be \$15.5 million, an \$856,529 hike. At \$31.6 million, Elizabeth will pay the highest tax, although the tax per household will be \$1,196, a slight increase of \$23 over 2009.

Broken down per household, Summit residents will pay the highest average tax at \$3,460, a \$190 hike over last year; Westfielders will pay \$2,732, a \$174 hike; Fanwood residents, \$1,666, an increase of \$117 over 2009; Scotch Plains, \$1,881, a \$96 hike; Mountainside, \$2,318, a \$74 increase,

and Cranford, \$1,697, a \$102 increase. "The problems that plague us are similar to what other governmental entities are experiencing across the nation – revenues, as a whole, continue to decline while contractual expenses and mandated costs increase, requiring governmental [entities] to be innovative and prioritize programs," Mr. Devanney stated in his letter to the freeholders.

The county anticipates \$193,292,241 in revenue outside of county taxes, down from \$212,951,670 last year, a drop of \$19.7 million. The county's surplus has jumped from \$18.5 million to \$24 million this year. Also on the revenue side, the county is projecting a \$1.8-million jump in revenue from Parks and Recreation to total \$6.3 million. But the county is anticipating a \$28-million drop in state and federal grants from \$48.9 million to \$20.7 million.

In his letter to the freeholders, Mr. Devanney said additional revenue boosters will include \$1.6 million by renting beds at the newly opened juvenile detention center in Linden; \$1.2 million in fees collected by the Union County Clerk's office, and \$1.9 million through higher reimbursement rates and "retroactive settlements" at the psychiatric unit at Rumlens Specialized Hospital.

As previously reported by *The Westfield Leader*, the county is looking to sell or lease the county's garbage incinerator in Rahway, which, Mr. Devanney said, "could mean millions in tax relief while maintaining low disposal rates to the public." Also, the county's Parks and Community Renewal Department is looking into public-private partnerships in areas that are running deficits such as the Watching Stables in Mountainside.

One area the county has been working on is reducing its deficits in golf operations. Last year, the county shut Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark to close a \$400,000-budget hole, while also contracting with a nationally known golf course management firm, Illinois-based KemperSports, to manage the two remaining courses, Galloping Hill in Union and Ashbrook in Scotch Plains. According to the executive budget, \$2,443,457 was spent on golf operations last year of which \$1,989,683 was for salaries. This year, Mr. Devanney has budgeted \$3,621,329 for the division of which \$1,733,477 will be dedicated for salaries.

In addition to the county purpose tax, residents will pay mostly a flat open space tax this year, ranging from \$3 in Winfield to \$139 per household in Summit. Locally, Westfielders will pay a total of \$111; Scotch Plains, \$76; Fanwood, \$68; Garwood, \$58; Mountainside, \$94, and Cranford, \$69.

## Attorney, Resident Clash Over Officer's Resignation

By LAUREN S. BARR  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD—The resignation of a borough police officer drew a heated discussion between a resident and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Officer Gennaro Mirabella, the brother of Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella, was charged with two disorderly persons offenses for allegedly going through the locked office and desk of the borough's chief financial officer and for allegedly tampering with currency to coin changers at the Garwood Jumbo Wash. The cases, which are classified as disorderly persons offenses, were transferred to the Westfield Municipal Court due to conflicts in Garwood.

All the charges were dropped at the request of Borough Police Chief William Legg following Mr. Mirabella's resignation.

Mr. Paterson alleged that the council accepted Mr. Mirabella's resignation without knowing about a settlement being signed by the borough. He said that the members of the council "should be outraged" and that it "leaves a bad taste in my mouth."

Mayor Dennis McCarthy responded that each member of the council gets a package each week on borough business and asks questions about anything they wish. Chief Legg added that it was his recommendation that the mayor and council accept Mr. Mirabella's resignation.

Mr. Renaud was then prompted to stand up and address Mr. Paterson. Holding a printed copy of Mr. Paterson's blog "Garwood's 'Independent' T.R.E.E.," Mr. Renaud said,



Eric Wildstein for The Westfield Leader

SEEKING EXEMPTION...Westfield Board of Education President Ginny Leiz, Vice-President Julia Walker and Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan, pictured from left to right, discuss the implications of a reduction in state aid during Tuesday's Westfield Board of Education meeting.

## BOE Seeks to Have Healthcare, Spec. Ed. Exempt from State Cap

By ERIC D. WILDSTEIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Board of Education (BOE) voted Tuesday to apply to the state for permission to make adjustments in its spending plan that would exceed mandated restrictions. BOE budget planning will be further analyzed in the coming weeks to fit within the constraints imposed by Governor Chris Christie. The governor reduced school aid for the 2009-2010 budget by \$475 million statewide to deal with the state's current year budget crisis.

As ordered by the state, school tax levies are not permitted to increase by more than 4 percent over the past year. The 2010-2011 tentative budget prepared by the BOE and administration for the Westfield schools exceeds that allowable limit. The current 2009-2010 budget totals \$89.5 million with a school tax levy of \$78.2 million.

The BOE hopes to remove costs for healthcare and special education, totaling \$734,040 and \$754,310, respectively, from the cap. As announced Tuesday, the 2010-2011 tentative budget totals \$93,771,231, and includes the \$1.5 million for healthcare and special education.

"The point is to file an application

with the county office to ask for a placeholder within the budget," Board Vice-President Julia Walker said.

Board Business Administrator Bob Berman added, "This application follows the rules as they exist right now. We will work it down from there."

The BOE approved a transportation policy on final reading that mandates the district provide busing for high school students living "beyond two-and-one-half miles from school and for intermediate students living beyond two miles from the school they attend or are eligible to attend." Mr. Berman said the modifications to the policy would create a 40-minute route that will transport 46 students and accommodate safe entry and discharge on the correct side of the street. This comes after a lawsuit filed by parents whose children were affected by the intermediate school redistricting that took place last year. The redistricting plan did not include transportation for some students, and a judge found that the district needed

to change its transportation policy. The board awarded the Vogel Bus Company the contract to bus students to Roosevelt Intermediate School from March 1 through June 23, 2010, at a cost of \$11,396.

The board also approved on final reading an extra-curricular activities policy that outlines procedures for clubs, programs and pupil organizations. All extra-curricular activities are subject to approval by the superintendent.

Following a survey to parents and town residents regarding the district's strategic plan, this Saturday will be the first full day of a Long Range Planning Committee workshop to discuss the strategic plan with full board involvement. Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan said, "By the end of June, we hope to have a finalized Five-Year Strategic Plan." Ms. Dolan said the district's goals are to "develop and adopt a strategic plan and continue to prepare Westfield stu-

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## County Grants, User Fees Fund Park Improvements

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD—After receiving bids ranging from \$53,000 to \$164,021, Westfield has decided to go with low bidder CMS Construction of Newark to complete 2010 turf and drainage improvements at Memorial Park.

Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Foerst, who had expressed reservations about the project last week, said he was now convinced that what is to take place is "much different" from the initial plan. He said what began as a "major" improvement plan has been scaled down to be rather "minor."

"This is a completely different plan," said Acting Mayor Mark Ciarrocca, who was in charge with

Mayor Andy Skibitsky in Union to watch his son at a regional wrestling tournament. "It is really just some drainage issues, some safety issues with the backstops and fencing to protect spectators."

"Probably the best part of the plan is that it will be paid for by a combination of [Union] County grant money, with matching fees coming from user fees," he said.

"A number of years ago," he continued, "we began a program of charging a \$10 user fee for each participant in Little League youth programs, and it's built up enough money that we can do a capital project like this without having to resort to using town

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Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader

FED UP WITH WASHINGTON...David Larsen of Oldwick, a Republican candidate for Congress from the Seventh District, poses for the camera prior to being interviewed by *Westfield Leader* Assignment Editor Paul Peyton, pictured at left. Mr. Larsen is among three candidates challenging freshman Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) in the June GOP Primary Election. See story on page 3.

## DWC Budget Remains Flat; Restaurant Week Begins

By WAYNE BAKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) on Monday approved a preliminary \$390,600 budget. DWC Executive Director Sherry Cronin said the budget is flat for the sixth straight year. The budget, as submitted to the town council, foresees rises in a trio of small income areas, predicting a profit from the Downtown Westfield 5K, normally a break-even or slight loss, meeting room rental and interest income.

One large expense is healthcare costs, which is expected to rise by about 16 percent, though even with the rise, healthcare accounts for about 6 percent of the total budget. Mrs. Cronin said the special "Economic Slow-Down" promotion line item has been removed because the board believes the worst is now past.

In other business, one target for design work by the DWC is property where Clyne and Murphy, The Cobbler's Bench, Dark Horse Percussion and Sound Station are situated. The property wraps around the corner of South Avenue and Westfield Avenue. In addition, money is still set aside for work to improve safety at the Rialto Theatre site, where pedestrians crossing East Broad Street against the light and cars stopping in front of the theater, pose safety risks. The county has stalled plans submitted by the DWC, officials said.

The DWC board announced that restaurant week has begun. The board also laid plans for promotions for the

coming year.

The restaurant week promotion is structured with two-course dinners priced at \$20, and two-course lunches priced at \$10. The promotion runs through Saturday, February 27, and includes about 20 restaurants at all price-point levels. Some lower-priced restaurants are offering two meals at the promotional rate, while others have modified it to three courses. Board member Lisa Bertone of Rock'n' Joe Coffeehouse said many customers are coming in to her restaurant aware of the promotion.

One of the more obvious up ticks in the business district is the impending opening of a new boutique, Splash, which is slated to open in three weeks at 15 East Broad Street, next to G.O. Keller's Cleaners. The new store is affiliated with a store located in Ukraine. It was also announced that Pumpkins and Petunias would be closing. Ms. Cronin said the DWC needs to put more effort into recruiting, but stated, "retail that's looking (for new locations) is few and far between."

It was also announced that an additional promotional channel may open up to promote the town. Town Administrator Jim Gildea reported that changes made recently by Facebook seem to adequately address concerns by the suburban Joint Insurance Fund (JIF), which insures New Jersey's municipalities. Mr. Gildea said he expects an answer from the JIF within two weeks, and this may allow the DWC to promote itself on Facebook via a fan page.



TROOPER APPRECIATION...Captain Joe DeSantis of the 102nd Cavalry Regiment of the New Jersey National Guard at the Westfield Armory and Danielle Bracco of the Family Readiness Group last Sunday present a plaque to *The Westfield Leader*, thanking the newspaper for supporting the troops. Pictured, left to right, are: Captain DeSantis, *Westfield Leader* Publisher Horace Corbin and Mrs. Bracco.



Wayne Baker for The Westfield Leader

ANOTHER TERM...Westfield's commissioner to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), Allen Chin, is sworn in for another term by RVSA Administrator Joanne Grimes. Pictured in foreground is Robert Valent, who is one of the officials running the RVSA since the resignation of executive director Robert Brinker due to health reasons. Current RVSA board chairman, Robert Luban of Woodbridge, is pictured at left.

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**HAWK SIGHTING...**Late Sunday morning, Jeff Messing of Beverly Drive in Westfield spotted a young red-tailed hawk having brunch in the neighborhood on the south side of town.

## MS Man Who Struck Patron Is Due in Court March 1

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — A Mountainside man has been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after allegedly striking another man in the head with a beer mug, according to Westfield Police Captain David Wayman.

Police arrested Michael Patrick Debbie, 28, the son of Mountainside Police Chief and Borough Administrator James Debbie, on February 10 at 11:43 p.m. at The Office Beer Bar and Grill on North Avenue in Westfield.

"The victim put his beer down and [later] mistakenly picked up the wrong beer," which belonged to Debbie, Captain Wayman said.

Debbie stood up and struck the victim in the head three times with his pint mug, the captain said.

The victim sustained a fractured eye orbital, and his eye area and nasal passage were swollen, the captain said. The Westfield Rescue Squad transported him to Trinitas Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

Captain Wayman said the charge, a fourth-degree crime, is an indictable offense. According to the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Debbie faces a maximum of 18 months in prison if convicted.

A state Superior Court spokeswoman said Debbie's first scheduled court appearance is set for Monday, March 1.

## Westfield Town Council

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debt."

In other business, the Westfield Town Council is expected to, next week, meet and subsequently take action on an "employment matter."

The council stepped off the dais mid-meeting, following the public-comment portion, to tend to the issue in private, stating that official action would be taken upon its return.

The governing body, however, chose not to act once it reconvened. Town Administrator Jim Gildea said the matter would be readdressed next week and that he expects action could be taken at that juncture. When asked after the meeting, council members would not elaborate further on the issue.

During the public-comment portion of the meeting, two Virginia Street residents, Chris Consales and Mario Scollo, spoke about the condition of their road. Both gentlemen live on the 200 block of Virginia Street.

Mr. Scollo said, "We are here to ask for your help. We're not sure if this falls under the purview of the council, but we have concerns with Virginia Street itself...the street is very narrow for a two-way street," with parking permitted on both sides of the road.

Mr. Scollo said the street, from curb to curb, measures 24 feet; the street's width, when factoring in two cars parked across from one another, drops to 10 feet.

"Our concern is that of safety," Mr. Scollo said.

Town Engineer Kris McAloon said many factors, including the volume of traffic, are factored into road widths.

"Certainly, we are aware of the narrowness," he said. He mentioned speaking with Fire Chief Dan Kelly to assess if changes need to be made to accommodate fire apparatuses. Mr. Ciarrocca said emergency officials and council members could do outreach in the community and discuss

the possibility of restricting parking to one side of the street if the area were amenable to that as a solution.

After the conclusion of the meeting, the council again entered private session to be updated on negotiations with the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) and new developments in the Sunnyside Senior Housing vs. Westfield lawsuit.

The fire union is currently in arbitration. On December 31, 2009, the police and Teamsters contracts expired. The Communications Workers of America is the only entity that entered 2010 with a current contract.

In the other matter, Sunnyside alleged in early 2009 that the town's "unreasonable and onerous" zoning ordinances unfairly prevented it from constructing a proposed 60-unit development on Springfield Avenue, which was to have a component for low- and moderate-income housing.

While a Union County State Superior Court judge has struck down the builder's-remedy element of the lawsuit, other claims in the Sunnyside case are still active.

### NJT Head to Talk Monday in Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Raritan Valley Rail Coalition will meet at 8:30 a.m. this Monday, March 1, in the first floor town council chambers of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

James Weinstein, the new executive director of NJ Transit, will be the guest speaker. He will talk about his vision for the transit agency, given the current financial constraints, including fare increases, service cuts and employee furloughs.

For more information, call (908) 232-7021 or e-mail [rvrc@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:rvrc@co.somerset.nj.us).



Jessica Jaskula for The Westfield Leader

**SEEKING A NEW DEAL...**Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association members asked the board of education last Thursday night to work with the union to reach a settlement for a new contract. The union's previous agreement expired last June.



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## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Monday, February 15, Natalie Diken, 20, of Fanwood was arrested at the Teaneck Police Department on an outstanding Westfield warrant in the amount of \$500. She was processed and turned over to the Union County jail after she was unable to post bail.

Tuesday, February 16, Dainzy White, 72, of Westfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting from a business located on the 600 block of West North Avenue. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters and processed, with bail set at \$3,500. Bail was later reduced to \$1,500, which she posted before being released.

Wednesday, February 17, Brendon Romanski, 36, of Cranford was arrested during a motor vehicle stop in the area of East South and Windsor Avenues. He was charged with possession of CDS (controlled dangerous substance) paraphernalia and possession of a hypodermic needle. Romanski was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released on his own recognizance.

Wednesday, February 17, a resident of the 600 block of St. Marks Avenue reported a home burglary that occurred between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. that day. There were no signs of forced entry and, at the time of the report, nothing was determined to be missing or stolen.

Wednesday, February 17, Kyle Harvin, 33, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield warrant in the amount of \$500. He was released on his own recognizance.

Wednesday, February 17, Philip Fladger, 39, of Plainfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding warrants from Westfield, in the amount of \$913; Fanwood, in the amount of \$750; and Plainfield, in the amount of \$250. He was processed and released on his own recognizance by Fanwood and Westfield and turned over to the Plainfield Police Department.

Wednesday, February 17, Charles Simmons, 47, of Plainfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding warrants from Cranford, in the amount of \$626.13; Middlesex Borough, in the amount of \$502; Westfield, in the amount of \$450; North Plainfield, in the amount of \$300; and Watchung Borough, in the amount of \$208. Simmons was processed, released on his own recognizance by Westfield and turned over to the Cranford Police Department.

Wednesday, February 17, Troy Howard, 47, of Newark was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding warrants from Westfield, in the amount of \$1,322; Clifton, in the amount of \$1,137; Linden, in the amount of \$1,082; North Plainfield, in the amount of \$882; and Saddle Brook, in the amount of \$827. Howard was processed, released on his own recognizance from Westfield and turned over to the Clifton Police Department.

Thursday, February 18, Kevin L. Gamrony, 47, of Irvington was arrested at the Essex County jail in Newark pursuant to an active Westfield criminal warrant in the amount of \$99. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, February 19, Faiz Ahmed, 47, of New York City was arrested on multiple outstanding traffic warrants pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at East South and Central Avenues. The warrants were issued by Fort Lee, in the amount of \$268; Morris Township, in the amount of \$76; Morris Plains, in the amount of \$138; Jersey City, in the amount of \$100; and Teterboro, in the amount of \$113. Ahmed was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, February 20, David C. Panayiotou, 20, of Carteret was arrested on outstanding traffic warrants from Westfield and Carteret, each in the amount of \$500, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at Birch and Standish Avenues. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, February 20, Christine L. Dudka, 28, of Iselin was arrested on an outstanding Seaside Heights criminal warrant in the amount of \$500 pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Cacciola Place. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released on her own recognizance as per the Seaside Heights Police Department.

Monday, February 22, Theron Summersett, 50, of Plainfield was arrested at Rahway Avenue and Watterson Street on warrants from Rahway, in the amount of \$570, and Fanwood, in the amount of \$269. Officers were at the scene investigating a traffic accident when the warrants were uncovered.

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, February 16, Jordan Keats, 20, and Christian LaLau, 19, both of Plainfield, were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after police responded to a report of a fight on Sycamore Avenue. According to authorities, Keats and LaLau continued to yell obscenities and refused to cooperate with police after they arrived at the scene. Both men were transported to police headquarters, where they were processed and released.

Wednesday, February 17, Rytheem Brooks, 34, of East Orange was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Wednesday, February 17, a resident of Donato Circle reported that she had been communicating with an individual over the Internet for several years and that he recently asked her for money to start a business. According to police, the victim stated that after she sent him the money, he stopped corresponding with her.

Wednesday, February 17, a resident of Myrtle Avenue reported that he received harassing text messages from a former friend, calling him different names.

Wednesday, February 17, the manager of a Front Street automobile rental business reported that she rented a motor vehicle to an individual, who then stopped making payments and did not return the vehicle.

Friday, February 19, Jamel Sheppard, 21, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana. According to police, Sheppard was stopped for a motor vehicle violation, at which time the officer smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Friday, February 19, Salsabi Akbar, 22, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana. According to police, Akbar was stopped for a motor vehicle violation, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of burnt

marijuana. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Sunday, February 21, a resident of East Second Street reported that someone broke the passenger side window of her motor vehicle while it was parked in front of her house.

Sunday, February 21, a resident of Brookside Drive reported that while she was having a garage sale, someone removed two cable boxes, valued at \$100, that were not among the sale items.

### Mountainside

Tuesday, February 16, a wooden bench for public use on Mountain Avenue was damaged, causing wood shards to be strewn about the ground.

Tuesday, February 16, a resident of Oak Tree Court reported that his front yard and portable basketball hoop were damaged when a MIDCO trash hauler truck rolled into them. According to police, the owner of the truck stated that the emergency brake let loose due to an air leak in the system and that the truck rolled into the victim's yard, causing the damage to the yard and hoop. A company mechanic brought a new truck and repaired the disabled one for transport back to the garage for inspection and permanent repair, police reported. The cost to repair the yard and basketball hoop is unknown at this time.

Tuesday, February 16, an officer responded to a Route 22 gas station on the report of a dispute. According to police, a patron of the gas station asked the attendant for \$20 worth of gas. The attendant put the nozzle in the vehicle and conducted a telephone conversation, without watching the amount being pumped, police reported. The victim stated that when he noticed the pump had gone past \$20, he got out of the vehicle and went to get the attendant, who was still on the phone, police said. The attendant continued to manually pump the gas until it reached \$27, stating that the victim had asked for a full tank, authorities reported. According to police, the victim only had \$23 worth of cash, which he gave to the attendant, leaving him \$4 short.

Thursday, February 18, Michael R. Hayes, 29, of Jersey City was arrested at the Scotch Plains Police Department on an outstanding Mountainside warrant in the amount of \$750.

Saturday, February 20, Jose M. Da Costa, 54, of Kearny was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

### Fanwood

Monday, February 15, Shawn Johnson, 42, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with providing police with false information and forged documents after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. She also was charged with outstanding warrants out of Newark, Piscataway and North Brunswick. According to authorities, she was transported to police headquarters, where bail was set at \$11,000. She posted a percentage of the bail and was released pending a court date.

Tuesday, February 16, Pamela Davis, 43, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding warrant out of Fanwood in the amount of \$439. She was transported to police headquarters, where she was processed and released after posting bail.

Wednesday, February 17, Reveca Diaz, 32, of Elizabeth was arrested following a field investigation on the 70 block of Martine Avenue on outstanding warrants out of Scotch Plains and Cranford totaling \$2,016. She was processed and turned over to the Cranford Police Department.

Thursday, February 18, Kevin Digs, 39, of Watchung was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on multiple outstanding warrants and for allegedly driving with a suspended license. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, February 19, Anthony Cusmano, 48, of Rahway was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding Piscataway warrant and a charge of possession of a controlled dangerous substance. According to police, while the officer was patting down the suspect following the arrest on the warrant, he found him to be in possession of a CDS. Cusmano was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Saturday, February 20, Nelson Reyes, 30, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue on a warrant from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). He was also charged with driving without a license and providing police with false information. Reyes was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and turned over to ICE, pending deportation.

Sunday, February 21, Anthony Kruglyak, 20, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of a CDS with intent to distribute after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue. According to police, the officer smelled the strong odor of burnt marijuana and a subsequent search of the vehicle produced several plastic bags containing the CDS. Kruglyak was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released after posting \$2,500 bail.

Tuesday, February 23, Joao Fernandes, 45, of Stroudsburg, Pa. was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding Jersey City warrant. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Tuesday, February 23, Julio Ramirez, 35, of North Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding warrant out of Plainfield. He was processed and released after posting bail.

### BOE Candidates Must File by March 1

WESTFIELD — Board of Education candidates must file by March 1. Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the Westfield board office at 302 Elm Street.

The School Board Candidacy Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.



Wayne Baker for The Westfield Leader

**NIGHTTIME GLOW...** Digester gas is burned off for disposal at the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority's (RVSA) facility last Thursday night. This flammable gas is intended to be the energy source in the RVSA's cogeneration facility, which is currently plagued by lawsuits and technical problems.

## MS School Board Continues To Discuss Budget Challenges

By MAGGIE DIGGORY  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Board of Education (BOE) was presented on Tuesday night with a revised look at the current school budget aid projections from the State of New Jersey. Officials have not released an estimated budget and tax levy for the 2010-2011 school year. Last year's budget was \$14.1 million, of which \$12.6 million has been raised in property taxes.

School Business Administrator Roderic McLaughlin provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the fiscal challenges facing the district in the next school year. The school district anticipates receiving \$780,455 in state aid for the 2010-2011 school year. The state aid amount was reduced by the projected withholding of seven state aid payments totaling \$273,161.

The Mountainside school district has "sufficient funds in tax relief" or reserves which allows the district the "maximum resources in the classroom and minimize local levy," Mr. McLaughlin's report states that, "in the Mountainside FY 2007-2008 audit, the district received unanticipated non-recurrent revenue of \$1.7 million from the former Union County Regional High School (UCRHS) district as the result of a successful resolution of a long-standing civil suit, by former employees, against the UCRHS district."

This one-time payment went into the district's reserves. Mr. McLaughlin compared the reserves of the district to that of Winfield Township, which reported reserves of \$55,267 and is therefore anticipated to receive \$1,419,204 in state aid in the next school year.

Not only is the district expecting less state aid, the Mountainside school district owes tuition monies to the Berkeley Heights school district in the amount of \$218,388. The reason for the balance due is because of an administrative mandate by the state, which the district received notification of by letter on January 7, 2010 from the Office of School Funding in the Department of Education, which was posted as part of Mr. McLaughlin's presentation. The letter states that the "requirement for adjusting a tentative tuition charge to the actual tuition rate will now be made in the second year instead of in the third year."

The Mountainside school district is required to pay double the normal rate of reimbursement to the Berkeley Heights school district, as the

### WF Pool Registration Deadline Is April 15

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Recreation Department has announced the deadline for registration for 2010 summer membership at the Westfield Memorial Pool for current members is Thursday, April 15. Applications have been mailed to all 2009 members. Current members can register online, by mail at or in person.

Once pre-registration of current 2009 members is completed for the 2010 season, if there are still openings, the recreation department will start contacting those on the wait list starting with the first name and continuing until all openings are filled.

Anyone interested in joining the pool who was not a 2009 member must be on the wait list at the recreation department. Wait list applications are available online at [westfieldnj.gov/recreation](http://westfieldnj.gov/recreation) or can be picked up in the department at 425 East Broad Street. For more information, call (908) 789-4080.

### Get In Tip-Top Shape with BootCampWF; Free Trial Classes Set March 3 and 4

WESTFIELD — BootCampWF is the premiere, healthy-living outdoor fitness training program right here in Westfield! Regardless of age, size, gender or fitness level, if you're in or around Westfield and looking to get in shape, drop those pounds, build that muscle and have fun while doing it, it's time to enlist in BootCampWF! The next session will run March 8 through April 26. Join us March 3 and 4 at 9:15 a.m. in Tamaques Park for a free trial class.

BootCampWF is a specially designed fitness program held for one hour, three days a week for six weeks. Certified Personal Trainers, Kathy Robb and Christine Taglieri, develop and lead all workouts, which are held Monday,

state has instructed districts to a two-year cycle in "the 2010-2011 budget process" and to "budget the net tuition adjustments for both school years." In the case of Mountainside, the district must pay the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 balances.

The Berkeley Heights school district has proposed a cost per pupil next year of \$15,398, an increase of \$900, or 7.1 percent, above the current year's tuition rate. With 238 Mountainside students expected to attend Governor Livingston High School in the school year 2010-2011, the estimated cost is \$3,213,000.

As an additional expense, Berkeley Heights "intends to charge Mountainside for a portion of its total kindergarten through 12th-grade costs for Resource Room at \$233,350," as Mr. McLaughlin's presentation tallied. The total amount due for the monies owed for past and current years' tuition, and the Resource Room expenditure, is \$3,664,738 — a 19-percent increase of \$665,938 from the previous tuition bill.

The BOE used these figures to continue to discuss how to proceed with "dialoguing," as BOE member Gene Nagel put it, with Berkeley Heights. Mr. Nagel stated that Chief School Administrator Jeanette Baubles and Mr. McLaughlin have been speaking and corresponding with the Berkeley Heights school district. Board member Carmine Venes suggested that the board look at other options and stated, "Writing letters to other more competitive districts is in order. I would like to make it a motion." The board discussed the idea instead of seconding the motion.

The board has rescheduled the Tuesday, March 16, BOE meeting to Monday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. to coincide with the district receiving its state aid numbers on March 17 or 18.

Mr. McLaughlin's presentation was made available on the district's website as of yesterday morning, according to Ms. Baubles, who spoke to *The Westfield Leader* after the meeting.

## WF BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents to meet/exceed state standards in a challenging fiscal environment."

The strategic plan has already led to the formation and implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in every Westfield school. These PLCs are headed by faculty members and are designed for teachers to share ideas, work together and further professional development.

One group of third grade teachers has a PLC that discusses the Language Arts curriculum, while a different PLC composed of guidance counselors focuses on social and emotional issues. Board President Ginny Leiz said, "Staff development is critical to [positive] outcomes for our children."

Other parts of the strategic plan aim to create an English Language Learners (ELL) summer program and Basic Skills classes to help special-needs students to be more independent. "These kids need to have a good education to prepare them," Ms. Dolan said. The BOE intends for these programs to lead to recognition of higher achievement.

In the personnel portion of the meeting, Ms. Dolan recognized Susan Foulds for more than 40 years of service in Westfield. Mrs. Foulds teaches second grade at Tamaques School and will retire in June. One of her favorite subjects to teach is social studies, describing it as a "wonderful way to show students they are one with the world." Mrs. Leiz said she is a "testament to loyalty and longevity in the district."

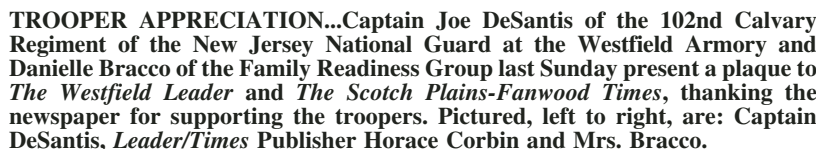
Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6 and 9:15 a.m. in Tamaques Park. Ms. Taglieri is now introducing a beginner program, **BootCampWF Lite**, which will meet twice a week over the six weeks, **Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 9:15 a.m.** **BootCampWF** starts off with an assessment of all recruits. On the first (and last!) day we see how many sit-ups and push-ups you can do, and how long it takes for you to walk/run a half-mile. These measurements allow participants and instructors to measure progress over the course of the session.

To enlist in BootCampWF or for more information, please visit our website at [www.BootCampWF.com](http://www.BootCampWF.com).

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**HAWK SIGHTING...**Late Sunday morning, Jeff Messing of Beverly Drive in Westfield spotted a young red-tailed hawk having brunch in the neighborhood on the south side of town.

## SPF Board of Education

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

focusing on special education. New issues that have or could impact the budget, he said, include a \$167,667 reduction in 2009-2010 state aid, the potential of a 10- to 15-percent reduction in 2010-2011 state aid, and the district's experience with poor claims.

"We anticipated an 8-percent increase [in claims]," he said, "but we are probably closer to 11 or 12 percent."

While the district is still waiting to hear official figures from the state, the possibility of "a 4-percent cap with 10-percent reduction in state aid is reasonable, I think, for our district," Mr. Del Sordi said. This tax levy cap scenario, Mr. Del Sordi said, would equate to a maximum budget of \$79,374,690 for the district.

Giving other examples of different scenarios, Mr. Del Sordi said a 4-percent cap on the tax levy with a 15-percent reduction in state aid could equate to a maximum budget of \$79,135,229, which would leave the budget over cap by \$239,461 and could mean more cuts in staffing for the district. On the other side, a 4-percent cap without a reduction in state aid could leave the district with a maximum budget of \$79,853,613, leaving the budget below cap by \$478,923.

Mr. Del Sordi said that in his budget proposal, the planned \$79,374,690 budget (made up of current expenses and capital outlay), plus \$2,077,671 in state/federal aid and a debt service of \$2,343,994, would leave the potential 2010-2011 budget at a grand total of

\$83,796,355, a 2.62-percent increase from last year's budget of \$80,798,648. Voters passed the district's \$71.1-million tax levy last April.

As for special education, the proposed budget has a grand total of \$18,238,675, a decrease of \$586,494 from last year.

Director of Special Services Tom Beese said he is anticipating fewer special education students going out-of-district, and stressed that the district's special education department continues to work through placements to make sure that the choice to go out-of-district or stay in-house is the best one for each individual student.

Mr. Beese said he is "very pleased with the status of the [special education] programs at this time."

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Whitehouse reminded the public that nominating petitions to run for board member in the upcoming elections are due to Mr. Del Sordi by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 1.

The board will meet next tonight, Thursday, February 25, for a regular public meeting.

## BOE Seeks Exemption From Spending Limit

By ERIC D. WILDSTEIN  
Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**WESTFIELD** — The Westfield Board of Education (BOE) voted Tuesday to apply to the state for permission to make adjustments in its spending plan that would exceed mandated restrictions. BOE budget planning will be further analyzed in the coming weeks to fit within the constraints imposed by Governor Chris Christie. The governor reduced school aid by \$475 million statewide to deal with the state's current year budget crisis.

As ordered by the state, school tax levies are not permitted to increase by more than 4 percent over the past year. The 2010-2011 tentative budget prepared by the BOE and administration for the schools exceeds that allowable limit. The current 2009-2010 budget totals \$89.5 million with a school tax levy of \$78.2 million.

The BOE hopes to remove the costs for healthcare and special education, totaling \$734,040 and \$754,310, respectively, from the cap. As proposed Tuesday, the 2010-2011 budget totals \$93,771,231. As of deadline, calls were not returned to clarify whether or not the budget total includes the \$1.5 million for healthcare and special education.

"The point is to file an application with the county office to ask for a placeholder within the budget," Board Vice-President Julia Walker said.

Board Business Administrator Bob Berman added, "This application follows the rules as they exist right now. We will work it down from there."

The BOE approved a transportation policy that mandates the district provide busing for high school students living "beyond two and one-half miles from school and for intermediate students living beyond two miles from the school they attend or are eligible to attend," Mr. Berman said the modifications to the policy would create a 40-minute route that will transport 46 students and accommodate safe entry and discharge on the correct side of the street. This comes after a lawsuit filed by parents whose children were affected by the intermediate school redistricting that took place last year. A judge found that the district needed to change its transportation policy.

The board awarded the Vogel Bus Company the contract to bus students to Roosevelt Intermediate School from March 1 through June 23, 2010, at a cost of \$11,396.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Westfield

Monday, February 15, Natalie Diken, 20, of Fanwood was arrested at the Teaneck Police Department on an outstanding Westfield warrant in the amount of \$500. She was processed and turned over to the Union County jail after she was unable to post bail.

Tuesday, February 16, Dainzy White, 72, of Westfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting from a business located on the 600 block of West North Avenue. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters and processed, with bail set at \$3,500. Bail was later reduced to \$1,500, which she posted before being released.

Wednesday, February 17, Brendon Romanski, 36, of Cranford was arrested during a motor vehicle stop in the area of East South and Windsor Avenues. He was charged with possession of CDS (controlled dangerous substance) paraphernalia and possession of a hypodermic needle. Romanski was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released on his own recognizance.

Wednesday, February 17, a resident of the 600 block of St. Marks Avenue reported a home burglary that occurred between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. that day. There were no signs of forced entry and, at the time of the report, nothing was determined to be missing or stolen.

Wednesday, February 17, Kyle Harvin, 33, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield warrant in the amount of \$500. He was released on his own recognizance.

Wednesday, February 17, Philip Fladger, 39, of Plainfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding warrants from Westfield, in the amount of \$913; Fanwood, in the amount of \$750, and Plainfield, in the amount of \$250. He was processed and released on his own recognizance by Fanwood and Westfield and turned over to the Plainfield Police Department.

Wednesday, February 17, Charles Simmons, 47, of Plainfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding warrants from Cranford, in the amount of \$626.13; Middlesex Borough, in the amount of \$502; Westfield, in the amount of \$450; North Plainfield, in the amount of \$300, and Watchung Borough, in the amount of \$208. Simmons was processed, released on his own recognizance by Westfield and turned over to the Cranford Police Department.

Wednesday, February 17, Troy Howard, 47, of Newark was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on outstanding warrants from Westfield, in the amount of \$1,322; Clifton, in the amount of \$1,137; Linden, in the amount of \$1,082; North Plainfield, in the amount of \$882, and Saddle Brook, in the amount of \$827. Howard was processed, released on his own recognizance from Westfield and turned over to the Clifton Police Department.

Thursday, February 18, Kevin L. Garmony, 47, of Irvington was arrested at the Essex County jail in Newark pursuant to an active Westfield criminal warrant in the amount of \$99. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, February 19, Faiz Ahmed, 47, of New York City was arrested on multiple outstanding traffic warrants pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at East South and Central Avenues. The warrants were issued by Fort Lee, in the amount of \$268; Morris Township, in the amount of \$76; Morris Plains, in the amount of \$138; Jersey City, in the amount of \$100, and Teaneck, in the amount of \$113. Ahmed was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, February 20, David C. Panayiotou, 20, of Carteret was arrested on outstanding traffic warrants from Westfield and Carteret, each in the amount of \$500, pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at Birch and Standish Avenues. He was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, February 20, Christine L. Dudka, 28, of Iselin was arrested on an outstanding Seaside Heights criminal warrant in the amount of \$500 pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at Central Avenue and Cacciola Place. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released on her own recognizance as per the Seaside Heights Police Department.

Monday, February 22, Theron Summersett, 50, of Plainfield was arrested at Rahway Avenue and Waterson Street on warrants from Rahway, in the amount of \$570, and Fanwood, in the amount of \$269. Officers were at the scene investigating a traffic accident when the warrants were uncovered.

### Scotch Plains

Tuesday, February 16, Jordan Keats, 20, and Christian LaLau, 19, both of Plainfield, were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after police responded to a report of a fight on Sycamore Avenue. According to authorities, Keats and LaLau continued to yell obscenities and refused to cooperate with police after they arrived at the scene. Both men were transported to police headquarters, where they were processed and released.

Wednesday, February 17, Rytneem Brooks, 34, of East Orange was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Wednesday, February 17, a resident of Donato Circle reported that she had been communicating with an individual over the Internet for several years and that he recently asked her for money to start a business. According to police, the victim stated that after she sent him the money, he stopped corresponding with her.

Wednesday, February 17, a resident of Myrtle Avenue reported that he received harassing text messages from a former friend calling him different names.

Wednesday, February 17, the manager of a Front Street automobile rental business reported that she rented a motor vehicle to an individual, who then stopped making payments and did not return the vehicle.

Friday, February 19, Jamel Sheppard,

21, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana. According to police, Sheppard was stopped for a motor vehicle violation, at which time the officer smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Friday, February 19, Salsabi Akbar, 22, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of suspected marijuana. According to police, Akbar was stopped for a motor vehicle violation, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of burnt marijuana. He was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Sunday, February 21, a resident of East Second Street reported that someone broke the passenger side window of her motor vehicle while it was parked in front of her house.

Sunday, February 21, a resident of Brookside Drive reported that while she was having a garage sale, someone removed two cable boxes, valued at \$100, that were not among the sale items.

### Mountainside

Tuesday, February 16, a wooden bench for public use on Mountain Avenue was damaged, causing wood shards to be strewn about the ground.

Tuesday, February 16, a resident of Oak Tree Court reported that his front yard and portable basketball hoop were damaged when a MIDCO trash hauler truck rolled into them. According to police, the owner of the truck stated that the emergency brake let loose due to an air leak in the system and that the truck rolled into the victim's yard, causing the damage to the yard and hoop. A company mechanic brought a new truck and repaired the disabled one for transport back to the garage for inspection and permanent repair, police reported. The cost to repair the yard and basketball hoop is unknown at this time.

Tuesday, February 16, an officer responded to a Route 22 gas station on the report of a dispute. According to police, a patron of the gas station asked the attendant for \$20 worth of gas. The attendant put the nozzle in the vehicle and conducted a telephone conversation, without watching the amount being pumped, police reported. The victim stated that when he noticed the pump had gone past \$20, he got out of the vehicle and went to get the attendant, who was still on the phone, police said. The attendant continued to manually pump the gas until it reached \$27, stating that the victim had asked for a full tank, authorities reported. According to police, the victim only had \$23 worth of cash, which he gave to the attendant, leaving him \$4 short.

Thursday, February 18, Michael R. Hayes, 29, of Jersey City was arrested at the Scotch Plains Police Department on an outstanding Mountainside warrant in the amount of \$750.

Saturday, February 20, Jose M. Da Costa, 54, of Kearny was arrested for allegedly driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

### Fanwood

Monday, February 15, Shawn Johnson, 42, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with providing police with false information and forged documents after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. She also was charged with outstanding warrants out of Newark, Piscataway and North Brunswick. According to authorities, she was transported to police headquarters, where bail was set at \$11,000. She posted a percentage of the bail and was released pending a court date.

Tuesday, February 16, Pamela Davis, 43, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding warrant out of Fanwood in the amount of \$439. She was transported to police headquarters, where she was processed and released after posting bail.

Wednesday, February 17, Reveca Diaz, 32, of Elizabeth was arrested following a field investigation on the 70 block of Martine Avenue on outstanding warrants out of Scotch Plains and Cranford totaling \$2,016. She was processed and turned over to the Cranford Police Department.

Thursday, February 18, Kevin Digs, 39, of Watchung was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on multiple outstanding warrants and for allegedly driving with a suspended license. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, February 19, Anthony Cusmano, 48, of Rahway was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding Piscataway warrant and a charge of possession of a CDS. According to police, while the officer was patting down the suspect following the arrest on the warrant, he found him to be in possession of CDS. Cusmano was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released.

Saturday, February 20, Nelson Reyes, 30, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue on a warrant from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). He was also charged with driving without a license and providing police with false information. Reyes was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and turned over to ICE pending deportation.

Sunday, February 21, Anthony Kruglyak, 20, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with possession of a CDS with intent to distribute after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue. According to police, the officer smelled the strong odor of burnt marijuana, and a subsequent search of the vehicle produced several plastic bags containing the CDS. Kruglyak was transported to police headquarters, where he was processed and released after posting \$2,500 bail.

Tuesday, February 23, Joao Fernandes, 45, of Stroudsburg, Pa. was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding Jersey City warrant. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Tuesday, February 23, Julio Ramirez, 35, of North Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding warrant out of Plainfield. He was processed and released after posting bail.



Wayne Baker for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**ANOTHER TERM...**Westfield's commissioner to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), Allen Chin, is sworn in for another term by RVSA administrator Joanne Grimes. Pictured in foreground is Robert Valent, who is one of the officials running the RVSA since the resignation of executive director Robert Brinker due to health reasons. Current RVSA Board Chairman Robert Luban of Woodbridge is pictured at left.

## MS Man Who Struck Patron Is Due in Court March 1

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**WESTFIELD** — A Mountainside man has been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after allegedly striking another man in the head with a beer mug, according to Westfield Police Captain David Wayman.

Police arrested Michael Patrick Debbie, 28, the son of Mountainside Police Chief and Borough Administrator James Debbie, on February 10 at 11:43 p.m. at The Office Beer Bar and Grill on North Avenue in Westfield.

"The victim put his beer down and [later] mistakenly picked up the wrong beer," which belonged to Debbie, Captain Wayman said.

## Attorney, Resident Clash Over Officer's Resignation

By LAUREN S. BARR  
Specialty Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

**GARWOOD** — The resignation of a borough police officer drew a heated discussion between a resident and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Officer Gennaro Mirabella, the brother of Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella, was charged with two disorderly persons offenses for allegedly going through the locked office and desk of the borough's chief financial officer and for allegedly tampering with currency to coin changers at the Garwood Jumbo Wash. The cases, which are classified as disorderly persons offenses, were transferred to the Westfield Municipal Court due to conflicts in Garwood.

All the charges were dropped at the request of Borough Police Chief William Legg following Mr. Mirabella's resignation.

Mr. Paterson alleged that the council accepted Mr. Mirabella's resignation without knowing about a settlement being signed by the borough. He said that the members of the council "should be outraged" and that it "leaves a bad taste in my mouth."

Mayor Dennis McCarthy responded that each member of the council gets a package each week on borough business and asks questions about anything they wish. Chief Legg added that it was his recommendation that the mayor and council accept Mr. Mirabella's resignation.

Mr. Renaud was then prompted to stand up and address Mr. Paterson. Holding a printed copy of Mr. Paterson's blog "Garwood's Independent" T.R.E.E., Mr. Renaud said, "Everybody's entitled to their opinion, but they're not entitled to make up facts."

According to Mr. Renaud, there were several "lies" in Mr. Paterson's blog regarding meetings that "did not happen." Mr. Renaud said he did draft the agreement between the borough

### NJT Head to Talk

#### Monday in Westfield

**WESTFIELD** — The Raritan Valley Rail Coalition will meet at 8:30 a.m. this Monday, March 1, in the first floor town council chambers of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

James Weinstein, the new executive director of NJ Transit, will be the guest speaker. He will talk about his vision for the transit agency, given the current financial constraints, including fare increases, service cuts and employee furloughs.

For more information, call (908) 232-7021 or e-mail rvrc@co.somerset.nj.us.

## Get In Tip-Top Shape with BootCampWF; Free Trial Classes Set March 3 and 4

**WESTFIELD** — BootCampWF is the premiere, healthy-living outdoor fitness training program right here in Westfield! Regardless of age, size, gender or fitness level, if you're in or around Westfield and looking to get in shape, drop those pounds, build that muscle and have fun while doing it, it's time to enlist in BootCampWF! The next session will run March 8 through April 26. Join us March 3 and 4 at 9:15 a.m. in Tamaques Park for a free trial class.

BootCampWF is a specially designed fitness program held for one hour, three days a week for six weeks. Certified Personal Trainers, Kathy Robb and Christine Taglieri, develop and lead all workouts, which are held Monday,

Debbie stood up and struck the victim in the head three times with his pint mug, the captain said.

The victim sustained a fractured eye orbital, and his eye area and nasal passage were swollen, the captain said. The Westfield Rescue Squad transported him to Trinitas Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

Captain Wayman said the charge, a fourth-degree crime, is an indictable offense. According to the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Debbie faces a maximum of 18 months in prison if convicted.

According to a state Superior Court spokeswoman, Debbie's first scheduled court appearance is set for Monday, March 1.

and Mr. Mirabella based on the "terms that were given to me" and that there is nothing in the agreement regarding criminal charges.

Mr. Paterson countered that the incident with Mr. Mirabella mirrors other problems in New Jersey and stated that Mr. Renaud is "part of it" as his law firm does work for Union County. Mr. Paterson said the "public is always left out of the loop" and that this incident is "an embarrassment" as Mr. Mirabella will be able to serve as a police officer again somewhere else.

Chief Legg told Mr. Paterson that if he feels that the chief did something wrong he is free to go to the Union County Prosecutor's office or the State Attorney General's office to file a complaint. The chief also said he thinks the situation "worked out well for the taxpayers of Garwood" as no town is permitted to suspend a police officer without pay unless the officer is under indictment, and that a speedy resolution to these types of matters saved the borough money in pay and legal fees.

In other business, Mayor McCarthy announced he recently met with representatives from NJ Transit regarding a potential new development on South Avenue. Tentative dates of April 14 and 15 have been set to hold workshops in order to get input from borough residents regarding the project.

### FW Acting Chief Trigo

#### To Meet Public Today

**FANWOOD** — The Borough of Fanwood has announced it will hold a Meet and Greet event with new Acting Chief of Police Richard Trigo today, Thursday, February 25, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Fanwood police headquarters, located at 75 North Martine Avenue.

"Encourage our residents and business community to stop in throughout the day and know any of their concerns or questions are important to myself and Chief Trigo," stated Mayor Colleen Mahr, who appointed Acting Chief Trigo on February 1.

Acting Chief Trigo stated, "I want the residents of Fanwood to be able to recognize the Chief of Police and be comfortable approaching me with their concerns. This event is my first step in implementing my vision to have the Fanwood Police Department more visible within the community."

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## Senate Panel Passes Reforms To State Pensions, Benefits

TRENTON – A bipartisan package of legislation that would complete the unfinished business of reforming the state’s Public Employee Pension and Benefits System first begun nearly four years ago was passed, 36-0, on Monday by the state Senate. The only bill not voted on would have placed a constitutional amendment on the November election ballot asking voters to require the state to contribute money to the pension fund in the future.

“These reforms are necessary to restore New Jersey’s long-term fiscal footing and return sanity to a pension and benefits system that was allowed to spiral out of control,” Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) said. “They were conceived in the spirit of bipartisanship, and I believe they will pass in bipartisan fashion as well.”

According to published reports, the various state pension plans are underfunded by at least \$30 billion after years of skipped or partial payments by the state. The bills seek to enact recommendations from the 2006 Special Session on Property Tax Reform’s Joint Legislative Committee on Pension and Benefits Reform. That committee made 41 proposals for overhauling the public pension and benefits system to ensure its long-term viability for career state employees. Fifteen recommendations were enacted legislatively; other reforms were achieved through collective bargaining.

The first bill (S-2), sponsored by Senators Nick Scutari (D-Linden) and Kevin O’Toole (R-Cedar Grove), would limit enrollment in the defined-benefit pension system to full-time employees who work at least 35 hours per week at the state level or 32 hours in local government and public schools. All other new employees earning at least \$5,000 annually could enroll in a 401(k)-style defined contribution plan. Current employees with fewer than 10 years of service would be allowed to switch from the defined-benefit plan to the defined-contribution plan, or withdraw from the system altogether.

The bill also would reconfigure the equation used to calculate pension benefits for future employees by dividing the number of years worked by 60, rather than the current 55. Also, the number of “high salary” years used for calculating benefits for workers in the public employee and teacher pension systems would be raised to five years from the current three; enrollees in the police, fire and State Police systems would have their

pensions based on their highest three years – up from the current one-year standard.

The bill also would designate a “one job-one pension” rule for multiple job holders, with only the highest-salaried position counting towards a pension.

Sens. Scutari and O’Toole served on the pensions and benefits panel during the special session.

“Past actions to boost pensions only increased the unfunded liability, placing at risk the retirement of career employees. Reform is vital to ensuring workers get the benefits promised and taxpayers are not left to shoulder excessive costs,” Mr. Scutari said.

A second measure (S-3) would require all current public employees – state, school district, and local – to pay at least at least 1.5 percent of their salary towards their health benefits after the expiration of their current contract, and would require all newly-hired employees to pay at least 1.5 percent of their base pension toward health benefits upon retirement.

State employees would be required to work at least 35 hours per week to qualify for health benefits, with local and school employees having to meet a minimum 25-hour-per-week standard.

The bill is sponsored by Senators Michael Doherty (R) and Jim Whelan (D).

Senator O’Toole and Senator Barbara Buono (D-Metuchen) are sponsoring a measure, S-4, to limit sick leave payouts for all new local and school employees to \$15,000 – the standard currently in law for state employees. The bill also would allow new local government and school employees to carry over only one year’s worth of vacation year-to-year and would eliminate the current sick leave injury program.

A proposed constitutional amendment (SCR-1) would require the state to annually meet its obligation for each pension plan it operates. If approved by voters in the November General Election, the state would have seven years beginning with the 2012 fiscal year to catch up to its full obligation – starting with Fiscal Year 2019, the full payment would be required every year. It is sponsored by Mr. Sweeney and Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr. of Westfield.

“New Jersey has made a promise of retirement security to its hundreds of thousands of public sector employees,” Mr. Kean said. “The legislation I am co-sponsoring requires the state to put away the money needed to keep its promises.”



Eric Wildstein for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
LISTENING TO CONSTITUENTS...Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) listens to a question from a constituent during his Town Hall meeting Saturday in Branchburg.

## Lance Discusses Energy, Health Care at Meeting

By ERIC D. WILDSTEIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

BRANCHBURG — Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) addressed a packed auditorium of constituents at a town hall meeting in the Edward Nash Theater at Raritan Valley Community College on Saturday. Mr. Lance, who announced his bid for re-election to the Seventh Congressional District seat last week, discussed his agenda on healthcare, energy, foreign policy and deficit issues, and challenged questions from the public.

“We need a glide path back to fiscal responsibility,” Mr. Lance declared as the cornerstone of his platform. It is the driving force behind the former state lawmaker’s campaign, which aims to regulate wasteful spending and shrink skyrocketing levels of debt in the annual deficit that threaten future taxpayers.

“My principals are based on fiscal responsibility,” Mr. Lance told Katherine Balch of Fanwood, who waited in line with nearly 80 other constituents. “It is the most important fundamental issue confronting the American nation.”

The budget deficit hit an all-time high at \$1.4 trillion in the 2009 fiscal year, up from the previous record of \$459 billion set in 2008. “It will be a terrible situation if Americans have to pay back this debt,” Mr. Lance said. Rejecting reports from many economists, Mr. Lance contended the nation is still in a deep recession, with the national unemployment rate at 10 percent. He asserted that refocusing on the U.S. Gross Domestic Product and factors that contribute to it would ease the burden. He also rejected the necessity of the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP), the bailout bill the U.S. government put forth to rescue financial institutions from bad mortgages, and pushed for appropriation of the funds towards lowering the deficit.

Several parts of Mr. Lance’s plan were met with resounding discontent, including an incentive to get other states off carbon dioxide-emitting dirty coal and shifting in the direction of wind, solar and nuclear energy.

“Drill for oil,” the crowd beckoned. One man proclaimed, “China can drill off the coast of Florida. Why can’t we?” Exploiting the oil reserves, Mr. Lance argued, would disrupt tourism in New Jersey, the state’s second-largest industry.

“We have to get off our dependence on foreign oil,” Mr. Lance told Jim Matthew of Garwood. “We need to have an energy policy in this country.”

Mr. Lance drew support for fighting to obtain healthcare across state lines and trends that would allow young adults to stay on their parents’ healthcare policies until their late 20s.

He recently voted against a major health reform bill that includes a 2.5-percent tax on medical devices. “Our district has more medical and pharmaceutical device employees than anywhere,” he said. “This is the medicine chest of the entire world.” The tax would amount to billions of dollars in lost revenue, he said, thus sacrificing jobs in the medical field, many of whose employees Mr. Lance described as “leaders in their community.”

Mr. Lance argued that fundamental malpractice insurance reform is vital to the longevity and success of professional medical practices. Malpractice cases concerning punitive damages are swelling insurance costs, and only compensatory damages should be awarded, Mr. Lance said.

He said proposed taxes on banks to collect back the federal stimulus funds would decrease the likelihood for small businesses to obtain loans from financial institutions that are already reluctant to issue loans. “It would be counter-productive to tax the banks,” Mr. Lance said. “Small- and medium-sized businesses are not getting the loans they need.”

## Facing State Aid Cuts, NJT Projects \$300-Mil. Shortfall

NEWARK – NJ Transit (NJT) Executive Director James Weinstein announced that the statewide transit agency is “aggressively” confronting current and future budget shortfalls that have arisen due to the severe national recession and the state’s \$2.2-billion current-year budget gap, and \$11-billion Fiscal Year 2011 budget gap.

“In the transition report that I helped prepare as head of the transportation committee, we indicated that NJ Transit would face a budget deficit next year (FY11) of about \$200 million,” Mr. Weinstein said. “After reviewing more recent data, the projected operating deficit in FY11 is approaching \$300 million.”

“NJ Transit has an obligation to balance its budget, and we cannot ask the state for help it cannot afford to give. We also cannot pretend otherwise or we risk making a bad situation much worse,” he said. “Balancing the NJ Transit budget will take a combination of actions and innovative thinking about doing things differently. But we will not compromise on safety and service reliability, and we will not ask our customers to pay more at the fare box until we have identified every possible efficiency, and sacrificed internally,” the executive director emphasized.

Mr. Weinstein called for riders and the public to provide input to NJT while the agency develops the proper mix of solutions to balance the budgets while maintaining safe, reliable bus and train service. Last week, Governor Chris Christie announced an 11-percent subsidy reduction, about \$33 million, to NJ Transit’s Fiscal Year 2010 state operating subsidy as part of a number of steps the Governor is taking to close the state’s current budget shortfall.

“This reduction is painful, but we understand the challenge the state is facing,” Mr. Weinstein said. “We know the Governor appreciates the importance of the transit system to New Jersey’s mobility, but we recognize that difficult measures are required to keep the state budget balanced.”

He said the budget outlook is even grimmer for FY11, which starts July 1 for both the state and for NJT.

NJT officials said they would likely be unable to depend on another round of federal stimulus and other one-time federal transportation funding, which was utilized to help bolster the operating budget by \$150 million.

In addition, NJT is facing inflationary cost increases for things such as fuel and equipment parts, even as ridership declined systemwide by about 4 percent year to date, reducing fare revenue.

Mr. Weinstein said NJT will be as inclusive as possible as it studies options to meet the financial shortfalls and will seek input from customers and stakeholders on any fare and service proposals. The agency will be reaching out to customers and the public over the coming days to solicit comments and suggestions.

NJT will hold a series of public hearings on the fare and service change proposals. The hearings will take place mostly at its facilities and will be held in Newark, Atlantic City, Trenton, Secaucus, Camden, Paterson, Hackensack, Manalapan and New York. An extended period of public comment will be available online on njtransit.com beginning in early March.

More detailed information on the proposals and the hearings will be made available in the next week or two on NJT’s website and through formal public notices statewide.

“Clearly, some of the adjustments we will have to make will be painful,” Mr. Weinstein said. “But we can emerge from this challenging time as a stronger agency, with a more stable financial picture, and continued pride in our service.”

Mr. Weinstein will speak before the Raritan Line Coalition this Monday, March 1, at 8:30 a.m. in the council chambers of the Westfield municipal building.

### Bramnick: N.J. Needs Real Spending Reforms

TRENTON — Assembly Republican Conference Leader and Budget Committee member Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield), issued the following statement regarding Thursday’s Assembly Budget Committee hearing on the state’s financial crisis:

“Today’s testimony was compelling and very impactful. We are faced with agonizing decisions in order to correct a spending problem that has persisted over the last eight years,” Mr. Bramnick said. “Unfortunately, there are no easy remedies for curing our revenue shortfall, but Governor (Chris) Christie is bound by the state constitution to maintain a balanced budget.

“The governor recognizes the pain this is causing, but taxpayers can no longer accept the status quo. Our state’s fiscal health lies in the balance, and we need substantive suggestions that address our problems. The public wants answers, not political posturing. Gov. Christie has provided the blueprint for changing the way government operates. He is making the difficult choices that state government has avoided for years.

“New Jersey needs real reform to correct the irresponsible budgeting practices by our colleagues across the aisle, which has led to this crisis. The state must go through what every family and business is forced to contend with, which is to make difficult choices during difficult times. No one likes it, but it must be done.”

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Hours: M-Th 9:30 am - 9 pm Fri 9:30 am - 5 pm Sat 9:30 am - 5:00 pm Sun 1 - 5 pm

#### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

3/3	7:00 pm	Computer Class: Business Resources (advanced)
3/5	1:30 pm	TGIF! Eleanor Roosevelt (video)
3/9	10:00 am	Computer Class: Intro to Word (beginner)
3/10	7:00 pm	“The Unknown Harriet Tubman” music & songs
3/11	7:00 pm	MothUP– Storytelling - Topic: Favorites
3/12	1:30 pm	TGIF! Julia Child (video)
3/13	2:00 pm	Kim Yarson and Songwriters-in-the-Round
3/16	10:00 am	Computer Class: Email Basics (intermediate)
3/19	1:30 pm	TGIF! Travel Ireland (video)
3/24	7:00 pm	Choosing a Wine for the Holidays
3/25	10:00 am	Computer Class: Shopping on the Internet (adv)
3/26	1:30 pm	TGIF! Movie: The Secret of Roan Inish
3/31	2 & 6 pm	Foreign Film: “The Counterfeiters” (German)

#### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS (Westfield cardholders only)

3/1 and 3/3	10:00 am	Toddler Time (babies & toddlers to age 3)
3/1	3:45 pm	Aesop’s Kids (elementary school)
3/2	1:30 pm	Preschool Storytime (3½ to 5 yrs)
3/4	10:00 am	Tots’ Storytime (2½ to 3½ yrs)
3/5	10:00 am	Preschool Storytime (3½ to 5 yrs)
3/6	10:30 am	Turtlesinger (3 years +)
3/7, 21, 28	3:00 pm	Teen Writers (grades 9-12)
3/10, 17, 24, 31	6:00 pm	Lego Club (grades 1 – 5). Must sign up @ 908.789.4090 x 3.
3/11, 18, 25		
3/11	10:30 am	Grupo ñ-Spanish Language Storytime
3/13	10:30 am	Jennifer Slaw, Juggler (4 years +)
3/29	10:30 am	Tafari Animal Tales (all ages)

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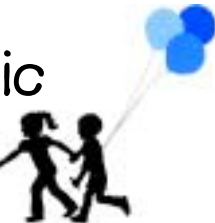


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## Fed. Spending Led Larsen to Challenge Lance in Primary

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — A newcomer to politics, David Larsen of Oldwick said he is running because he is “fed up” with the spending of Washington, D.C.

The candidate, who is one of three men thus far seeking to unseat Republican freshman Rep. Leonard Lance in New Jersey’s Seventh Congressional District, runs a 50-plus-year family-owned windows and doors business in Brooklyn.

He said the House of Representatives is “the People’s House” and not intended for “career politicians to stay there forever.”

“We need to bring common-sense budgeting into the House and to Washington,” Mr. Larsen during an interview Monday at the offices of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. “If you give the government \$1, they will spend \$6, so that at needs to stop.”

He said the difference between he and Rep. Lance is that the Congressman is “a third generation career politician...so his family business is politics,” while Mr. Larsen is a “third generation small-business owner.”

Mr. Larsen said the electorate is concerned most about the economy, taxes, corruption, security and health care.

“There is out-of-control spending in the government that needs to stop. There is so much waste and corruption that we need to deal with, and that needs to stop,” he said. “We need a much smaller government. We need to drastically cut taxes and lower spending.”

In response to Rep. Lance’s claim that Republicans have “lost their way” in Washington on fiscal issues, Mr. Larsen commented that, “Leonard Lance is one of the ones who has lost his way.”

“He has been in politics for almost 30 years. He’s part of the problem. Within three months after he was elected into Congress, he went and was named porker of the year in April of 2009 (by Citizens Against Government Waste).”

Mr. Larsen said the congressman also broke his own promise when he approved earmarks for federal spending on projects in the Seventh District. Mr. Larsen also was critical of Mr. Lance’s vote in favor of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454), better known as the Cap and Trade bill, which Mr. Larsen called “a massive energy tax bill on the American business.”

Rep. Lance has since said he would not support the Cap and Trade bill

because China and India have refused to support the global warming initiative.

“This is an opportunity for him (Mr. Lance) to flip-flop on it,” Mr. Larsen said. “He even sent out a letter saying why [he voted for the tax] and saying he would still support, a couple of months ago, the Cap and Trade bill. He defended himself for doing so.”

On health care legislation, the candidate said he favors “individualized or personalized health care,” in which a person with health insurance would work with his or her doctor, not a federal bureaucrat.

“I am disappointed in the Republican Party for those months when the Democrats put together this massive 2,700-page reform bill; they (GOP) didn’t come up with something on their own to counter that and to really help the American people,” Mr. Larsen said. “People should be able to have lapse coverage; people should be able transfer their insurance. There shouldn’t be little loopholes for the insurance company to get away with.”

On foreign affairs, the candidate said he supports “preventive maintenance.”

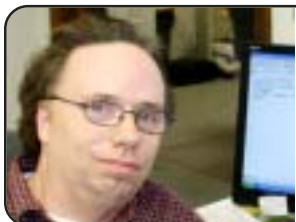
“I believe what President [George W.] Bush did was great,” he added. “He kept the country safe. I believe we need to continue with that [approach].”

The candidate said he does not believe sanctions will work in preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, saying the United States must “act on our own benefit and the world’s benefit.” He said he would not support pulling American military troops out of Iraq “until the job is complete.” He also said the U.S.’s presence is needed in Afghanistan “to protect the American people.”

The candidate said high taxes have caused “a vacuum [of residents] out of this beautiful state,” citing a recent study that found \$70 billion of wealth has left the state in the last few years.

Saying he would likely support term limits for both houses of Congress, he noted, “It’s not about yourself; it’s about the people,” Mr. Larsen said. “I don’t need to do this, but I have a fire in me because I am fed up [with Washington]. We need to go ahead and do something.”

Mr. Larsen is joined in the GOP Primary race by Bruce Baker of Westfield and Alonzo (Lon) Hosford of Clinton. Congressional staffer Ed Potosnak of Somerset County is the only Democrat in the race.



## Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

### Lautenberg Diagnosed With Cancer; To Return to Wash.

U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D), 86, has been diagnosed with treatable stomach cancer and began chemotherapy last week at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. The senator took ill on February 15 following a fall in his Cliffside Park home, according to *The Star-Ledger*. He will receive six to eight treatments, administered every three weeks, his office said in a statement.

“In between treatments, the senator is expected to be back at work in the Senate,” according to the statement.

### Sen. Lesniak, Others Borrowed \$2 Million From Failed Bank

State Senator Ray Lesniak (LD-20, Elizabeth) and five other directors of a First BankAmericano in Elizabeth that folded in 2009 borrowed more than \$2 million in mortgages and commercial loans from the bank, according to a report on NorthJersey.com. The bank had been placed under a July 2007 federal order to stop unsound banking and loan practices.

When the bank collapsed, it listed \$11.4 million in “insider loans.” The report stated that eight former board members, including Mr. Lesniak, who received mortgage money from the bank have contributed to the campaign coffers of U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.).

*The Wall Street Journal* reported that Mr. Menendez sent a letter last July 21 to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke asking the agency to approve the sale of the bank to a holding company based in Brick be-

fore it collapsed.

### Gerbounka Vetoes Council Funding for P/T Attorney

Linden Mayor Richard Gerbounka vetoed the city council decision to fund a part-time attorney.

“I feel we have an excessive amount of lawyers in our legal department,” Mayor Richard Gerbounka wrote in a letter to the city clerk rejecting an ordinance passed February 16 approving funding for attorney John Hudak.

*The Star-Ledger* reported that Mr. Hudak is one of three part-time assistant city attorneys and earns a salary of more than \$71,000.

### Appellate Division to Hear Case On Friday to Recall Menendez

Three Appellate Division judges will hear oral arguments tomorrow, February 26, in Trenton to recall Senator Menendez, according to *The Jersey Journal*.

The motion has been brought by conservatives from Sussex County who are affiliated with the Tea Party movement, which supports limited government and is opposed to Mr. Menendez’s stance on health care reform.

Former Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells previously denied the group’s petition, stating a federal office holder is bound by the rules of the U.S. Constitution, not the state Constitution, when it comes to recalling a U.S. Senator.

Marc Elias, Mr. Menendez’s attorney, told the paper “there is no merit to this lawsuit.”

Reading Is Good For You

## RVSA Executive Director Resigns for Health Reasons

By WAYNE BAKER  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

RAHWAY — Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority Executive Director Michael Brinker has resigned due to health reasons.

A letter addressed to RVSA Chairman Robert Luban of Woodbridge from Mr. Brinker was received on January 26, 2010. In it, Mr. Brinker noted that his last day would be February 24, and his retirement would be effective March 1. Multiple sources said that Mr. Brinker had been absent from the authority almost continuously since the beginning of the year.

Mr. Brinker’s assistant, James Cassella, had resigned via letter a week prior. No reason for his resignation was stated. Mr. Brinker’s job functions have been temporarily filled by the authority’s secretary-treasurer, Robert Materna, and superintendent Robert Valent. Mr. Cassella, a Republican, is mayor of East Rutherford.

In other business, Roselle Park Commissioner Attilio “Sonny” Venturo asked RVSA administra-

tors if RVSA was “going ahead or giving up?” on its cogeneration facility. He was cut off and told it would be discussed in (closed) executive session.

This month’s counsel’s report noted that the authority and its contractor, JH Reid, have been named as defendants in a lawsuit filed by Caterpillar and Foley Power Systems. This is the latest of several legal actions involving the regeneration facility and the several contractors and consultants involved. An extensive closed session followed the open meeting. No discussion of changes to the authority’s user charge system occurred at the meeting.

Allen Chin of Westfield and Frank Mazzarella of Clark were each re-appointed by their respective municipalities as commissioners.

### SP GOP Seeks Poll

### Workers for Elections

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Republican Committee has announced that some positions are available for poll workers for the upcoming elections. The poll workers are required to work for the School Board Election in April, the Primary Election in June and the General Election in November.

The poll workers would work one-half day for the School Board Election and be paid \$100 for the day, tax-free. They would work a full day for the Primary and General Elections at \$200 per day tax-free.

Anyone interested should call William McClintock at (908) 322-8401 or Joan Papen at (908) 889-2396.

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Diamante is a semi-sweet white wine, made from Viura and Malvasia grapes. A classic which is highly appreciated for its complex bouquet and the elegance with which it enters the mouth. When served cold, it suits white fish, seafood soup, desserts, sweets and ice creams.

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Wine Advocate: 86

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10<sup>99</sup>  
750 ML



### Argentina White Pearl Chardonnay

A rich, full-flavored, medium-bodied dry white wine. Well-balanced, pale gold color with hints of green, pleasant fruity aromas with delightful citrus, melon and fresh fruit flavors.

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### Italy Di Lupo Pinot Grigio Venezia

This wine shows a fruity, crisp and full flavor character. Best when young and fresh, it is excellent with any fish, pasta and white meat, but also with pizza and as an aperitif. Serve chilled.

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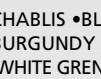
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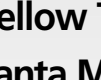
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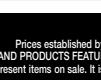
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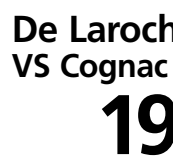
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## Government-By-Screaming Is No Way to Conduct SP Meetings

The famous pleading of “Can’t we all just get along?” might be applicable to Scotch Plains these days, where, from where we sit, no one seems to be getting along. The bickering, which came into full view at last week’s township council meeting, is more than just between the political parties. It has pitted the council against the board of directors of the group managing the commercial business district. It has split township Republicans. It has led to some unusual alliances among council members. And all the squabbling has done nothing to merit the approval of the 23,000 taxpaying residents. In fact, last Tuesday’s council meetings — both the public, televised session and the stormy conference meeting beforehand — were the talk of Internet message boards and township residents.

Two weeks ago — in anticipation of last week’s meeting between the council and representatives from the Scotch Plains Management Corp. (SPMC) to discuss the SPMC’s recent hiring of two managers — we urged both sides to “conduct themselves rationally,” and hoped the council would follow the advice offered by Councilman Jeff Strauss, who urged his colleagues to “find out the facts before we act.” Regrettably, the February 16 meeting between the two sides can only be charitably characterized as a disaster. And the wounds opened at that session carried over to the public meeting later that evening, when anyone who happened to tune into Scotch Plains Television saw the schism between the council and the SPMC only widened.

We’re aware of the old saying that politics ain’t always beanbag, but have matters at the local level in Scotch Plains deteriorated to such a point that we have council members engaging in repeated screaming matches with residents and local businesspeople? From the reports we’ve received, last week’s meeting with the SPMC was not a rational two-way exchange as much as it was a series of loud and angry accusations with very little listening being done. We certainly hope — again — that cooler heads will

prevail in the coming weeks as this mess is hopefully sorted out or else this effort to revive a comatose business district will be one of the more memorable flameouts we’ve seen of late.

Meanwhile, the Republican-controlled council last week announced the ouster of township attorney, Brian Levine, and assistant township attorney, Larry Woodruff, both of whom are Republicans who were appointed by Republican councils in 2006 and 2002, respectively. It was hard not to miss the irony, and the edge in some of the comments, as a parade of local Republican officials — former mayors and council members — came forth to publicly praise the outgoing Republican-appointed legal team, which is being replaced by Jeffrey Lehrer, from the politically connected law firm headed by former acting governor, state Senate President, and township attorney and resident, Donald DiFrancesco.

The stated reason for the change, according to Mayor Nancy Malool, was a “restructuring” of the township legal department, a reason that strikes us as vague. Mr. Woodruff’s position and salary had already been sharply cut back. Was Mr. Levine costing the township too much, and what will Mr. Lehrer, the new attorney, be paid? According to the DiFrancesco law firm’s website, Mr. Lehrer presently serves as township attorney in Springfield and Bedminster and as attorney for the zoning board in Edison, as well as the North Brunswick and Old Bridge planning boards. This begs the question of how much time he will be able to devote to Scotch Plains. Or will it be a situation where the township attorney position is farmed out to some of the other attorneys at the firm?

All of our area municipalities are facing tough economic times and hard choices this year, but our elected officials, especially, owe the taxpayers of their respective towns clear reasons for all of their decisions — and do so in calm and reasonable tones. Last week’s spectacle in Scotch Plains need not be repeated.

## Mail Carriers in Westfield Live Up to Tradition During Storm

On February 10, we were besieged by snow in a display unseen in many years. Apparently, global warming had taken a sabbatical. The ability of the Post Office to perform its duties and serve its patrons was looking grim. The Westfield mail carriers, living up to a tradition established by George Washington in 1794, through their diligence, accomplished their mission. The following morning I complimented my workers for their efforts.

However, many carriers returning from their routes reported incidents involving the citizens of Westfield, which inspired

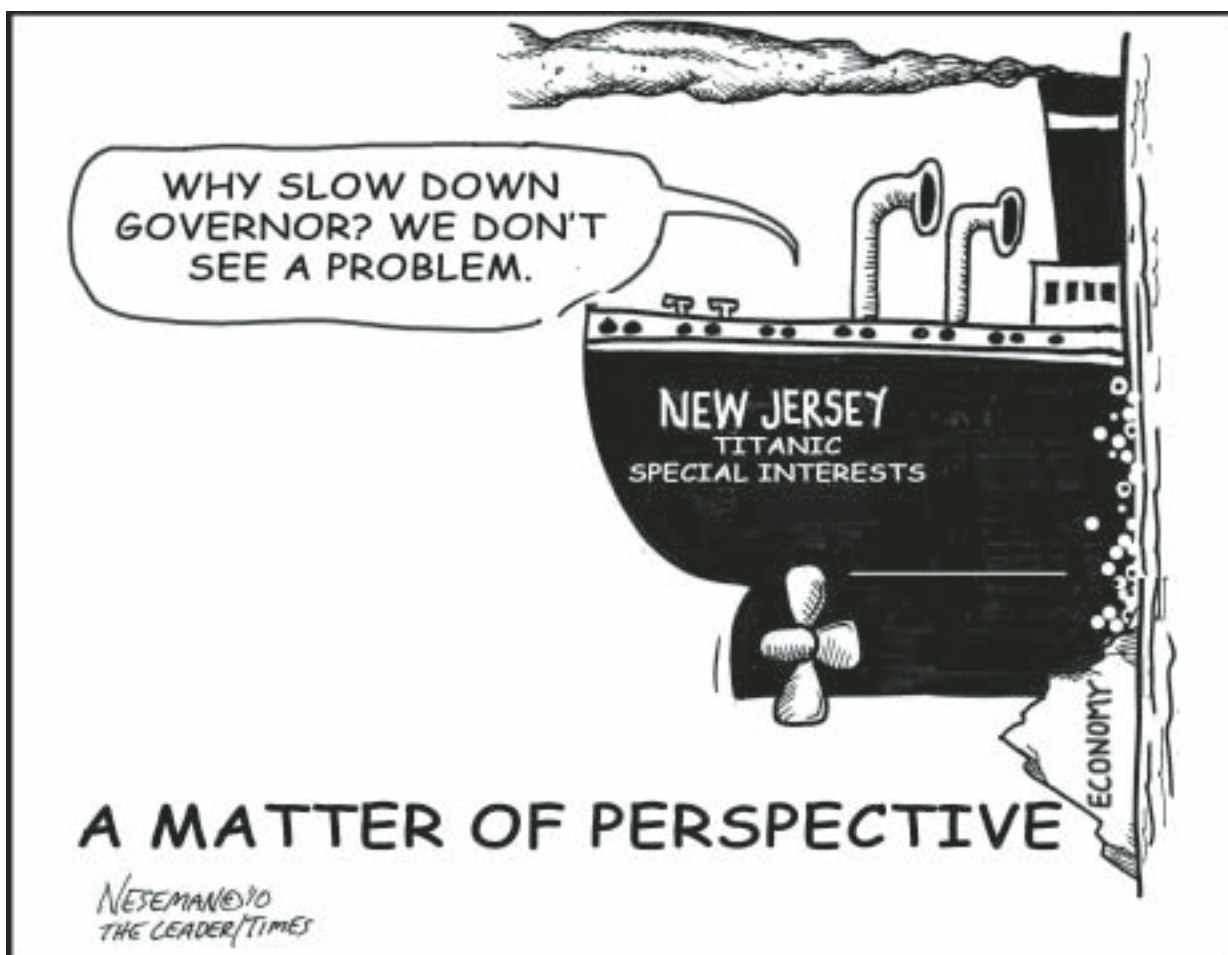
them to continue the execution of their responsibilities. Some were met with comments such as, “I’m impressed” or “I didn’t think you would be here today.” Some stated that their trucks were pushed out of the snow by concerned residents. One carrier even reported that a family, father and his children, helped shovel him out of a spot in which he was trapped due to a town snowplow. For these acts of support, I thank the people of Westfield who were involved.

Interestingly, Westfield was originally formed as a township in the same year that the post office was established, 1794.

Steeped in its own tradition, on February 10, this historic town found itself knee deep in snow at day’s end. As a result of the concern of the conscientious citizens, who cleared access to their mailboxes, the Post Office was able to provide service in the days following the initial snowfall.

We are very much obliged to the citizens of Westfield. Thank you again and please be reminded of the myriad of services available at USPS.com.

**Frank Pace**  
Acting Westfield Postmaster



### Your State Legislators

---LD-21---  
 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R)  
 425 North Ave. E.  
 Westfield, N.J. 07090  
 (908) 232-3673  
 Asm. Jon Brannick (R)  
 251 North Ave. West  
 Westfield, N.J. 07090  
 (908) 232-2073  
 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R)  
 57 Union Place, Suite 310  
 Summit, N.J. 07901  
 (908) 918-0414

---LD-22---  
 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D)  
 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave.  
 Linden, N.J. 07036  
 (908) 587-0404  
 Asw. Linda Stender (D)  
 1801 East Second St.  
 Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076  
 (908) 668-1900  
 Asm. Jerry Green (D)  
 17 Watchung Ave.  
 Plainfield, N.J. 07060  
 (908) 561-5757

LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford.

LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.

### E-mail

senkean@njleg.org  
 senscutari@njleg.org  
 asbrannick@njleg.org  
 aswmunoz@njleg.org  
 aswstender@njleg.org  
 asmgreen@njleg.org

7th Congressional District  
 Representative Leonard Lance, 425 North Avenue E., Westfield, NJ 07090 (908) 518-7733



## Letters to the Editor

### Garwood Library Thanks People For Helping Kids in Appalachia

The staff of the Garwood Public Library would like to thank all those who donated gently used children’s books during our request to help the children of Appalachia.

Shortly after viewing the recent Diane Sawyer documentary “Children of the Mountains,” and seeing the poverty and lack of the basics that these children had, the staff decided to reach out to the community to support their drive to bring some joy to the children there. The rural reaches of Kentucky are so far removed

from the urban and suburban areas, that it is difficult for the adults to visit the towns, let alone have the children travel there. By having the children receive the gift of a book, they will know that someone cares about them and that they are not alone in their struggle for a better life.

Eighteen boxes of books have been shipped in recent weeks. Thank you again, wholeheartedly, for making a difference in the life of a child.

**Garwood Public Library Staff**  
**Carol Lombardo, Director**

### State Responsible for PFRS Crisis; Pension Reform is Overdue

Public pension reform in New Jersey has long been overdue. This has been a position held by police and fire unions for 20 years. The state of New Jersey, now looking to shift blame, has focused on the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS) beneficiaries as the cause for its fiscal irresponsibility. It is unfair to the residents of the state not to be provided with the truth about events that led to the under-funding of the public pension system.

Police and fire pension reform, with the endorsement of the unions, came in the 1990s by requiring that in order for income to be pensionable, payments on that income must be made from the beginning of employment. Any sudden significant increase in salary prior to retirement would not count as pensionable income. This was to prevent pension padding in the last years of service.

This requirement still does not apply to political appointees who routinely receive significant raises or changes to their job title or part-time/full-time status in order to increase their pensionable income in their last years of service. Further, and again unlike their political counterparts, police officers and firefighters are only able to collect one pension from their retirement system, regardless whether they return to a similar job title after retiring.

Members of the PFRS contribute 8.5 percent of salary toward their pension. This is the highest in the country and more than most members of the private

workforce contribute to their 401K. Members of the PFRS do not pay into, nor are they eligible for a Social Security benefit for their time of service. In fact, if a PFRS member pays Social Security contributions through a secondary private employer, they receive a significantly reduced Social Security benefit even though they paid the maximum contribution.

The state cannot deny that prior to the year 2000, the police and fire pension system was not only secure, but also had excess funds to cover its obligations. It wasn’t until (and against the recommendation of the state Division of Investments) the state’s more than eight year failure to make its required payments into the system (payments that were continuously paid by the police officers and firefighters in the system), the state’s excessive borrowing of funds from the system without repayment and partial investment into hedge funds that caused the crisis that the system is now in.

I’m curious to know — if a private sector employer failed to make its required payments into an employee’s 401K and also borrowed money from the fund without paying it back, would it be held criminally liable for the misappropriation of the funds or would it just be able to reduce the employee’s benefits, blame the employee for the deficit and absolve themselves of all accountability?

**Steve Spurr**  
**Cranford Firefighter**  
**PFRS Member**

### Rahway Spends Over \$90k for Piano; Duet with Freeholders Sounds Flat

Not only did the mayor and council quietly spend over \$90,000 for a piano, but they also have recently increased the city’s debt by approving an \$8.5-million bond ordinance to be coupled with \$3 million already borrowed to create a venue in the Hamilton Street project to showcase this music box.

Knowing Mayor James Kennedy, it comes as no surprise that the freeholders are somehow involved in this travesty, as the piano, on loan to the county, has been delivered and installed at the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) as the city leaders decide exactly what they believe they need to build to house it. According to the blog, rahwayrising.com, the piano will be moved for performances between the arts center and the yet-to-be-constructed amphitheater proposed for the old Hamilton Laundry site. A maneuver that is questionable at best, requiring professional piano movers to handle the duties of transporting the instrument down the block and back. We can only imagine whose brainchild that is, and feel pretty confident in predicting that that will probably never come to pass.

According to *The Star-Ledger*, the piano was unveiled February 21 before a select audience of 50 dignitaries from the city, county, arts district and performing arts center — how snooty is that? And why wasn’t an open house planned to offer those who actually foot the bills the first glimpse of this grand piano, which by the way is partly plated in gold. Could it be because Mayor Kennedy and Peter “the Piano Man” Pellissier (Rahway’s Business Administrator) know on some remote level that this purchase was a slap in the face to the residents of the city who are already feeling the harsh realities of a national recession and that an “open to the public piano showcase” could expose them to the wrath of the citizens as they would be expected to attend. It should also be noted that at this point in time there are not any of the usual news releases posted on either the UCPAC’s or the freeholder’s websites bragging about

these activities or this purchase made with taxpayer dollars leaving Mayor Kennedy and the town council hanging out to dry all alone.

A ride through downtown Rahway is distressing especially when one realizes that the city is on the verge of losing its state aid and her leaders choose not to put this purchase on hold but rather move forward with these plans when other projects have come to a grinding halt.

The truth be told, the city is mostly a ghost town lacking the amenities that it takes for it to become self-sustaining for the upscale train commuters and artists that he, Mayor Kennedy, seeks to attract. There is not even a food mart or green grocer or pharmacy on the walk from the train station to the condos two or three blocks away, these are elements necessary to support even a limited transit village type of environment. Also, currently sorely lacking are the all important restaurants and curiosity shops, which are necessary to attract the visitors who would pump money into the local economy to create the long-term stability necessary to attract new investors to the redevelopment area.

Five-plus years have passed since the county freeholders started to help revitalize the city using tax dollars to break into the entertainment biz by purchasing the UCPAC and promoting it as the “Jewel of the redevelopment of the City of Rahway.” Glorious predictions were made by Mayor Kennedy and various freeholders at that time touting new jobs, new buildings and new activities in the downtown as a direct result of the arts center acquisition and renovations and we now know how little has actually materialized. Unfortunately, this piano duet being performed by the City of Rahway and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is looking as though it too will come out sounding nothing but painfully flat.

**Patricia Quattrocchi**  
**Garwood**

### SP Resident ‘Shocked’ By Ad On St. Helen’s Church Sign

Since Elizabeth Blanchard called me an “anti-advertising or anti-Catholic church person,” I feel I must ask you to print the original letter I sent to pertinent parties concerning St. Helen’s advertisements.

I had sent a copy of my original letter to *The Westfield Leader*, but I am enclosing another copy to be published.

I recently noticed the three new entrance signs at St. Helen’s Church. I am shocked to see a business advertisement, “contributed by Johnson Funeral Home,” attached. I have been in many churches in my 68 years of church (Catholic) attendance and have never seen anything like this. You may call this a “donation” but with St. Helen’s big fundraiser, I’m sure

the cost of these church signs could have been included in that.

At times, I attend St. Leo’s in Irvington and St. Bernard’s in Plainfield. These churches are much less financially endowed than St. Helen’s and their church signs do not have listed who paid for them.

So, every time you enter St. Helen’s for a happy occasion, for instance, Sunday Mass, daily prayer, a First Communion, Confirmation or a wedding, you will be reminded that your last visit to St. Helen’s will be with Johnson Funeral Home.

Very “tacky” and I think sad for the community of St. Helen.

**Marion Monteverdi Roberts**  
**Scotch Plains**

### Tea Party Writes President Obama Broke Tax Promise to Country

President Barack Obama’s deeply troubled relationship with the truth continues. During his presidential campaign, he pledged — countless times — that he would not raise taxes on families making less than \$250,000 per year. For example, on September 12, 2008, President Obama promised “I can make a firm pledge, under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.”

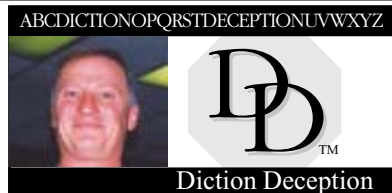
President Obama broke this promise on April 1, 2009, when he signed into law a tax increase on tobacco products, which happen to be disproportionately purchased by the poor. And of course, this won’t be the last time President Obama breaks that

particular promise of his.

In an interview published in the February 22, 2010, edition of *Business Week*, President Obama now admits that he is “agnostic” about possible tax increases on families earning less than \$250,000 per year. President Obama attempts to explain away his broken promise as such: he wants to “make sure that all ideas are on the table.” All ideas? Even bad ideas that run counter to a central campaign promise of yours?

Let us hope that in 2012, Americans have the audacity to elect a president who has the bare minimum of integrity necessary to actually attempt to keep his or her campaign promises.

**Mark Kalinowski, Clifton**  
**North Jersey Tea Party Group**



Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions — only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly — good guess. If you get two — well-read individual. If you get three — word expert. If you get all four — You must have a lot of free time!

**All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.**

**Answers to last week’s arcane words.**

1. Impalpable — That which cannot be felt
2. Siccative — Causing to dry
3. Pungar — A crab
4. Salto — In music, a skip

### TUSSICULAR

1. Twining about; twisting
2. Pertaining to a cough
3. Full of life; very lively
4. Formed like a fan

### KAME

1. A low mound or hill composed of sand, gravel, etc.
2. Boiled corn meal; mush
3. Brittle
4. A small brook or rivulet

### PULE

1. To run abandon; decamp
2. Covered with a hairy substance or wool
3. A type of sweet onion
4. To whine, cry, whimper

### KEB

1. Playful; sportive
2. Untidiness; filth
3. Scottish for a tic or sheep louse
4. A pustule or pimple

## Letters to the Editor

### ‘R-Word Puts a Label On Somebody’

As a person with disabilities I am easily offended by use of the R-word (retard). Nobody wants to hear that word. Using the R-word puts a label on somebody even if they have certain problems. We are people that God created to have a life. We need to make friends with one another, not to put somebody down by using the R-word. We should not hear that word from one friend to another friend. Thank You. — Gregory Felzenberg

Gregory Felzenberg is a person with intellectual disabilities and a member of Community Access Unlimited. He is neither a politician nor blogger and is not compelled to debate the appropriateness or excess of political correctness. Gregory simply feels that every individual should be recognized for who they are rather than through a label others use to define them.

I believe those who demand to comprehend why another person is offended by a word before they agree to stop using it are misguided in their passions. Gregory simply believes in people being kind and respectful toward one another. That should end all debate on the matter of the R-word.

**Sidney Blanchard, Dir.**  
**Community Access Unlimited**

### County PR Dept.:

### ‘What Info. Are They Providing Exactly?’

The Union County Office of Public Information has total salaries of \$400,751. A letter published last week (*The Westfield Leader*) and signed by Sebastian D’Elia, the head of this department (salary \$111,420), nastily whines about my being misinformed about a cell tower. Besides its false statement regarding my association with the county, it states, in part, “Ms. Renna could have easily requested the bid documentation and the old lease and learned this, but chose not to.”

Easily? Placing an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request and then having to travel to Elizabeth during work hours to view it isn’t easy. Knowing what documents to ask for isn’t easy either; and if you don’t ask for the exact document that would answer your questions, you are told no documents exist. I know from experience. I spend countless hours hunting down information on county expenditures.

What would be easy is if a citizen could simply have their questions answered at public meetings by freeholders who are paid approximately \$30,000 per year for their part-time positions instead of being instructed to “place an OPRA” for more information. What would be easier is to be able to phone or e-mail Mr. D’Elia, who is the county spokesman, or his extensive staff, and simply ask for information. What public information are they providing exactly?

The public information department, as listed on the Union County website, includes the names listed below: (This doesn’t include the public information departments of the Sheriff’s and Prosecutor’s Offices.)

Sebastian D’Elia, communications director, \$111,420; Wayne Avery, assistant information director, \$65,168; Thomas Plante, parks, public information officer, \$74,350; Jim Lowney, staff photographer, public information officer, \$60,568; Maritza Maseda, bilingual communications, public information officer, \$49,045; Tina Casey, general assignment, public information officer, \$41,200.

Despite expending \$400,751 for a public information department, the county chooses not to have a transparent government and to make obtaining information difficult and even harasses citizens for trying to participate in the governmental process. The Union County Watchdog Association has uncovered much waste and abuse of the public trust over the years. I demand to know why this extensive department of public information and its freeholder board felt it necessary to have their spokesperson, who is more suited to represent the cast of the Jersey Shore, attack a citizen yet again, while making it difficult to obtain information and leaving many questions regarding public spending unanswered.

**Tina Renna, President**  
**Union County Watchdog Assoc.**



## WF, CF Residents Win Toastmasters Contest

WESTFIELD – Toastmasters of Westfield, a public speaking organization, has announced that Anne Baker of Westfield won first place in the evaluation portion of the contest, which is the first level of an international competition that will culmi-



Photo courtesy of Allison Inzerro  
**TOAST OF THE TOWN...** Anne Baker of Westfield and Charlie Harder of Cranford receive awards from the Toastmasters of Westfield.

nate this summer, and Charlie Harder of Cranford won first place in the club's annual speech contest, and also

### Cryan Hails Court Decision on Copies

TRENTON – Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Cryan (LD-20, Union) has hailed an Appellate Court ruling that found government agencies can only charge the public the actual costs for copies of government records.

Mr. Cryan is sponsoring legislation (A-559) to set lower and more uniform fees for copies of official state government documents. Under his bill, the cost that could be charged to an individual for public records could not exceed 10 cents per page for letter-size copies or 15 cents per page for legal-size copies.

"This ruling is a victory for the public and government transparency," Mr. Cryan said. "Government has no reason to overcharge for public information and should always lean toward transparency and this ruling will help hammer that point home."

### Comedy Night Benefit Set for March 18

NEW BRUNSWICK — Elijah's Promise, Stand Up Against Hunger, will hold an evening of comedy on Thursday, March 18, at the Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick to benefit the soup kitchen. The evening will feature New Jersey comedians Joey Novick and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield).

Last month the soup kitchen served over 8,000 meals and distributed clothing and warm coats to over 400 people. The social service staff seeks warm weather items and places for those who are homeless to stay.

Tickets for the evening are \$25 each. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6 p.m. and the fun begins at 7 p.m. For more information, call (732) 545-9002 or e-mail [elijahs.promise@yahoo.com](mailto:elijahs.promise@yahoo.com).

SEE MORE AT  
[GOLEADER.COM](http://GOLEADER.COM)

won the club's first memorial award named for a long-standing member.

The two winners will compete in the next level of competition on March 24 at 7 p.m. at United Methodist Church in Summit.

Ms. Baker won first place in the evaluation contest. In that contest, the contestant has five minutes to prepare a brief evaluation summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of a presentation.

Mr. Harder won first place for his speech, called "The Prisoner," which graphically depicted, through vivid, colorful language, childhood anecdotes, props and physical gestures, what it feels like to be trapped by a stuttering impediment.

Mr. Harder also won the club's first Bill Hetfield Memorial Award for Excellence in Public Speaking. Mr. Hetfield was a well-known Plainfield commercial appraiser and historical preservationist, who died suddenly on January 11, days before he was slated to give one of the last speeches of his two decades in Toastmasters. The speech would have earned him the organization's highest honor, the Distinguished Toastmaster certification. Mr. Hetfield had extremely high standards for all club members, pushed everyone to participate in speech contests and was a mentor to many; the club plans to give this award every year in February to whomever wins first place in the contest.

Mr. Harder, ironically, was supposed to co-host the January 14 meeting with Mr. Hetfield, and noted another bittersweet aspect of winning an award named after his friend.

"We both joined Toastmasters to overcome a stuttering problem," said Mr. Harder. "I think Bill would be pleased that I am the first recipient of this award."

For more information about Toastmasters of Westfield, visit [toastmastersofwestfield.com](http://toastmastersofwestfield.com) or call (732) 516-9852.

## UC Extension Guide Offered On 'Health and Wealth'

COUNTY –The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County has developed the program "Small Steps to Health and Wealth" to help residents combine good health and nutrition with saving money on household bills.

"The trick is to change your habits in small, easygoing steps that give you a sense of accomplishment," said Dr. Karen Ensle, RD, a nutrition expert and head of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County.

A key strategy is to keep a weekly grocery shopping list. Research shows that excess money is spent when more trips to the supermarket are taken. A pre-planned list helps reduce extra trips.

Households that keep grocery lists save money by using less gas, taking better advantage of money-saving sales, using coupons and making bulk purchases; buying fewer snacks and convenience foods, which are high in sugar, fat and salt; buying more staples and cooking more nutritious meals; switching from name brands to cheaper store brands with the same nutritional value; reserving soda



Horace Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...** A bevy of beauties celebrate Carol Kearney's birthday during a surprise party Sunday evening at 16 Prospect Bistro in Westfield. Pictured, are: Beata Wodjak (front); left to right: Joan Blake, Suzanne Taylor, Becky Conrad, Ms. Kearney, Pat O'Connor, Veronica Kearney and Gail Sloan.

## Senior Citizens Council to Hold March 1 Program

COUNTY — On Monday, March 1, the Senior Citizens Council of Union County is sponsoring an open discussion on healthcare reform with Congressmen Leonard Lance and Frank Pallone. The program will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Center located at 968 Bonnel Court in Union. Coffee and cake will be served.

"There are over 65,000 seniors in Union County," said Executive Director Richard Stone. "Although seniors have coverage through Medicare, many are faced with significant cost and care issues of their own. Our seniors want to know what healthcare reform will actually mean to them."

"The difficulty in creating a healthcare reform bill is that coverage, cost and care issues are all interconnected. Every change results in unintended consequences," added Ellen Steinberg, chair of the Senior Council.

and other sugary drinks for special treats rather than daily use; avoiding impulse buys, especially at the checkout line.

Paying with cash or a debit card instead of a credit card helps cut impulse buys.

These and many other tips are included in a workbook and online challenge developed by Dr. Ensle with Dr. Barbara O'Neill, an extension financial specialist.

For more information or a free copy of the workbook, call (908) 654-9854 or visit [njaes.rutgers.edu/sshw](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/sshw).

Rutgers Cooperative Extension offers a variety of free programs including the "Enjoying a Balanced Diet on a Balanced Budget" seminar. Educators who are interested in disseminating this seminar can get a free PowerPoint version in English or Spanish by e-mailing Dr. Ensle at [ensle@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:ensle@njaes.rutgers.edu).

The next class in the series is "13 Fun Ways to Eat More Fruits and Veggies," held tonight, Thursday, February 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. Pre-registration is required by contacting Digna Torres at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension at (908) 654-9854 or [dtorres@ucnj.org](mailto:dtorres@ucnj.org).

"Many legislators tell us that the greater the number of people who have insurance, the lower the cost. This equates to making up in volume, what you lose on an individual level. However, costs will depend upon the risk pool and the increased demands on our healthcare services. At present, we have a finite number of doctors and facilities. If pre-existing conditions are eliminated as a bar to coverage and there are more people demanding an increasing level of care, will our present services be adequate? What will constitute basic coverage and how much preventative care will be included? And, why are we waiting to take advantage of the potential cost savings from Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicaid? There are many questions and we are looking forward to hearing directly from our Congressmen."

For more information, call (908) 964-7555. The Senior Citizens Council of Union County is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the needs of older Americans, their families and caregivers.



Those Who Serve

### Pherson of Garwood Decorated with Air Medal

GARWOOD — Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Guinevere R. Pherson is returning to the United States after a deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom, respectively.

She is the daughter of Robert McSulla of Garwood.

The chief warrant officer served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Iraq Theater of Operations. While deployed, she was decorated with the Air Medal for her distin-

guished service.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Pherson, a UH-60 instructor pilot with 13 years of military service, is a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 150th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

The soldiers return to Fort Dix for debriefing, evaluations and out-processing procedures before returning to their regularly assigned Army Reserve or National Guard units.

In 1993, the chief warrant officer graduated from Point Pleasant High School.

### Sgt. Metz of Scotch Plains Returns to U.S.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Leroy Metz, Jr. is returning to the United States after a deployment overseas in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom.

He is the son of Earl and Jeannette Wallace of Scotch Plains.

The soldiers return to Fort Dix, N.J. for debriefing, evaluations and out-processing procedures before return-

ing to their regularly assigned Army Reserve or National Guard units.

Staff Sergeant Metz, a crew chief with 34 years of military service, is regularly assigned to the 150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, West Trenton.

In 1976, Sgt. Metz graduated from Clifford J. Scott High School in East Orange.

## Letters to the Editor

### Spending \$26.5 Million on a Joint Library is 'Insanity'

I cannot believe how out of touch the political leaders of Scotch Plains and Fanwood are with the tax-paying public. In this — the worst economic climate since the Great Depression — their idea of saving money, with joint services by combining the library systems of our towns, is to come up with a plan costing \$26.5 million.

This planned building would be grandiose in the best of times let alone when many of our neighbors are losing their jobs and struggling to save their homes and wondering how to pay their already

skyrocketing taxes.

After spending a lifetime in the construction industry, I know that the \$26.5 million is the going price, and that after adding the little niceties that "everyone knows we need," and the design mistakes, the omissions and the escalation, the price will likely be 25 percent higher.

After spending well over \$50,000 already, leave the libraries alone.

Insanity!

Elmer (Pete) Terry  
Scotch Plains

### ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

The Law Firm of Dughi & Hewit, P.C. is pleased to announce that Mario C. Gurrieri, Esq., Chair of its Family Law Department, Richard A. Outhwaite, Esq., Kristin M. Capalbo, Esq. and Andrew J. Economos, Esq. will present to the public a free seminar entitled "Everything You Need to Know about Divorce" on Thursday, February 25th, 2010 at Ferraro's South in Westfield, New Jersey and Saturday, February 27th, 2010 at The Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, New Jersey. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for over 37 years, and his group of other well-experienced attorneys, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning premarital agreements, separation, divorce, custody and parenting time, division of assets, alimony, child support, domestic violence, post-divorce Court review of changed financial and child related circumstances, how the current economic climate will impact divorce and post-divorce matters, as well as the law governing civil unions.

Information will also be provided on Divorce Mediation, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce Mediation offers the potential for significant financial savings, while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties and contemplating divorce, or if you are simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this free Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post divorce rights and obligations of former spouses.

A Free Personal Consultation will be offered to All Attendees.  
Reservations Required (no names needed)  
Call: (908) 272-0200  
Refreshments will be served

<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010</b> 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. FERRARO'S SOUTH (Catering Hall) 425 South Elmer St. Westfield, New Jersey 07090 908-233-9777 <a href="http://www.ferrarossouth.com">www.ferrarossouth.com</a>	<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010</b> 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. THE GRAND SUMMIT HOTEL 570 Springfield Ave. Summit, New Jersey 07901 908-273-3000 <a href="http://www.grandsummit.com">www.grandsummit.com</a>
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### Spring Semester Starts March 1 Many New Classes!

See class listing on our website, or find the print version in your mailbox, local libraries, and train stations. Register online, by mail or in person at Westfield High School Monday evenings during semester.

*Mention this ad first day of class for a free tote bag!*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Computing &amp; Digital Photography</b></li><li>• <b>Computing for Seniors</b></li><li>• <b>Creative Arts &amp; Crafts</b></li><li>• <b>Culinary Arts &amp; Nutrition</b></li><li>• <b>Dance &amp; Fitness</b></li><li>• <b>Finance, Business &amp; Legal Issues</b></li><li>• <b>Personal Growth, Health &amp; Safety</b></li><li>• <b>Home Improvement &amp; Green Living</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>History, Politics &amp; Philosophy</b></li><li>• <b>Personal Organization</b></li><li>• <b>Languages, Trips &amp; Travelogues</b></li><li>• <b>Music &amp; Performing Arts</b></li><li>• <b>SAT Prep &amp; Driver's Ed</b></li><li>• <b>Writing &amp; Publishing</b></li><li>• <b>Mahjong and Bridge</b></li><li>• <b>First Aid &amp; CPR</b></li><li>.....and more!</li></ul>
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## Dental Update

by Kenneth W. Arida, D.D.S.  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

### GOOD ORAL HEALTH PROMOTES CLEAR THINKING

There is already research that links gum disease with heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and Alzheimer's disease. Now, a recent study suggests that gum disease may also be associated with poorer thinking skills. Researchers found that adults aged 60 and older with the highest levels of the gum disease-causing pathogen Porphyromonas gingivalis were three times more likely to experience trouble recalling a three-word sequence over time than those with lower levels of the pathogen. Adults with the highest levels of the pathogen were also two times more likely to fail three-digit reverse subtraction tests. It is thought that gum disease influences brain function through several mechanisms, including causing body-wide inflammation, a risk factor for loss of mental function.

We know how important it is to you that the people who take care of your dental needs be well-informed, knowledgeable, highly skilled, and caring and compassionate. Our promise to you, then, is that our office will provide you with dental care of the highest quality, based on sound medical modalities, using the most appropriate procedures, and utilizing extremely qualified staff members. Keep on top of your dental health by calling 908-654-6262. Comprehensive dental care for you and your family is available in Westfield at 131 South Euclid Avenue, where free off-street parking is available. P.S. As scientists slowly collect evidence that links oral health with brain function and overall health, patients have more reason than ever to brush and floss and visit the dentist regularly.

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MR. AND MRS. GLENN JULIAN WOJCIK  
(She is the former Ms. Cari Elizabeth Bever)

## Ms. Cari Elizabeth Bever Weds Glenn Julian Wojcik

Ms. Cari Elizabeth Bever and Glenn Julian Wojcik were married on Friday, June 26, 2009, at the historic St. Mary's Church in Newport, R.I.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bever of Smithfield, Va. She graduated from Menchville High School in 2000 and from Virginia Tech in 2004. She received a master's degree from the University of Maryland in 2006 and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Rhode Island in 2009.

The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Randolph Wojcik of Westfield. He graduated from Westfield High School in 1993 and from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1997. He received a master's degree from Tufts University in 2009.

Both Cari and Glenn are employed as engineers for Raytheon Company in Portsmouth, R.I.

Donnelle Brumback of Newport News, Va., sister of the bride, was matron of honor. Christopher Wojcik of Philadelphia, Pa., brother of the groom, was best man.

Nicholas Bever of Washington, D.C., Nicholas Brownstone of Westfield, Robert Brumback of Newport News, Va., Dr. Ryan DeMasi of San Francisco, Calif. and Dr. Randolph Wojcik, Jr. of Westfield were groomsmen.

Nina Brownstone of Westfield, Nicole DeMasi of Los Angeles, Calif., Meredith Hornsby of Williamsburg, Va. and Amy Wojcik of Westfield were bridesmaids, and Julie Brownstone of Westfield was a junior bridesmaid.

Quinn Wojcik was the ring bearer and Emma and Maevie Wojcik were flower girls. All three are from Westfield.

A reception was held at Belle Mer on Goat Island in Newport, R.I. The couple honeymooned in Lanai, Hawaii and Napa Valley, Calif. and resides in Newport, R.I.

### A Westfield Jaycees Dinner Meeting

Jeffrey Christakos, CPA, CFP®

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Current tax law and wealth management strategies in

these turbulent economic times

March 3 - 7pm greet, 8pm eat, Famous Dave's, Rt 22

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## Rotary Pancake Breakfast To Take Place on March 6

WESTFIELD – The Rotary Club of Westfield will hold its 43rd annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 6, from 8 a.m. to noon in the Westfield High School cafeteria, located at 550 Dorian Road. Tickets are \$7 each and may be purchased from any Rotarian or at the door.

A 50-50 raffle will be held during the event. Local school and community music groups will provide live entertainment throughout the morning. There also will be a Children's Fair, sponsored by the Westfield Area "Y," featuring a Moonwalk, face painting, spin art, balloons and other family activities.

Local youth organizations, including the Westfield High School Rotary Interact Club and Elementary School Early Act Clubs, the Westfield Area "Y" Leaders Club and Black Achievers Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies, will volunteer at the breakfast to support the Rotary Club's efforts.

Proceeds from this event will support the Rotary Scholarship Fund and Rotary Community Service Grants.

### Deacons Collecting Water For Haiti

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Junior Deacons of St. John's Baptist Church presently are collecting cases of water every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to send to Haiti for the earthquake victims there. They are asking the public to join them in this effort by donating a case of water and bringing it to the church, located at 2387 Morse Avenue in Scotch Plains. The water will periodically be shipped to Haiti. For more information, call the church at (908) 232-6972.

## Westfield Stamp Club Show To Take Place on March 6

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Stamp Club will hold its 47th annual stamp show on Saturday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street. Admission will be free.

Stamp dealers from around the state will be on hand, offering a wide range of philatelic items for sale in every price range. Free appraisals will be available. Additionally, the show will host the annual exhibit competition among club members, who will exhibit stamps and postal history items from around the world.

The exhibits to be shown will include the work of individuals who are new to the field as well as those who have shown their work at the international competitive level.

This year, the show will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. A special presentation will be given at 10 a.m. for scouts who are working towards earning the stamp collecting merit badge. Noted stamp collector and author Steven Rod will conduct the session. There will be specially designed envelopes with a Boy Scout theme, and the United States Post Office will provide a special Boy Scout cancellation that will only be available at the Westfield show. The club also will have a special exhibit to honor the Boy Scouts.

The Westfield Stamp Club meets at 8 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month (except November, when it is on the third Thursday, and July and August for summer recess) in the Westfield Municipal Building Community Room. For additional information, visit the club website, [westfieldstampclub.org](http://westfieldstampclub.org), or call (908) 232-0539.

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Wade Anthony and Miss Alissa Clark

## Miss Alissa M. Clark To Wed Wade C. Anthony

Mr. and Mrs. R. Kerry Clark of Cincinnati, Ohio are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Alissa McNern Clark of Memphis, Tenn., to Wade Campbell Anthony, also of Memphis. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Anthony of Westfield and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Campbell and Mrs. Ellen Anthony and the late Mr. Ralph Anthony, all formerly of Westfield.

A graduate of Indian Hill High School in Cincinnati, the bride-to-

## Mr. Mahmoud to Recount History of the Phoenicians

WESTFIELD – "The History of the Phoenicians" will be the topic of Hassan "Sam" Mahmoud at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society on March 3. It will begin at noon at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

Mr. Mahmoud will address relevant questions and facts, among them, "Where did the name Phoenicia come from?" "Were the Phoenicians Semites?" "Did their religion influence the early Hebrews' beliefs?" "Did they build Solomon's temple?" and how the word "bible" has a Phoenician origin.

Other topics will include how the Phoenicians introduced the alphabet in Europe; how Europe was named after a Phoenician legend, and how George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion* has its roots in Phoenician mythology.

Mr. Mahmoud additionally will explore the questions of whether the Phoenicians beat Vasco da Gama by 2,000 years by sailing around what became the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa and whether they traded with parts of England and Ireland 3,000 years ago, and how the Phoenicians almost snuffed out the Roman Empire in its infancy.

Mr. Mahmoud, a member and trustee of the historical society, has presented various programs on ancient history to the society's membership over the years.

A 17-year resident of Westfield, Mr. Mahmoud came to the United States from Egypt 40 years ago. He has been a world traveler, author, lecturer and a student of the history and culture of many countries. Since he has lived in the United States, he has published multiple articles about history and politics in the major state newspapers. He writes a monthly column in the *Home News Tribune*.

All those wishing to attend the luncheon are asked to make a reservation by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon on Monday, March 1. The cost of the luncheon is \$18, including gratuity.



Hassan Mahmoud

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## By Exiting 'Comfort Zone' We May Set Others Free

By REV. DR. MARK BOYECA

In his newest book, "America's Prophet," bestselling author Bruce Feiler examines the enormous influence that Moses has had on our nation's history not just religiously, but politically and culturally as well.

As a frame of reference for the book's thesis, Feiler offers the suggestion that Moses' life was defined by "four choices" which not only shaped his own life's course and character, but also that of the Hebrew people. Each of these four choices is associated with a signature incident in Moses' life.

The second of these incidents occurs while Moses is still a young man, very likely in the early adulthood stage of life. Following an episode in which he kills an Egyptian he witnesses abusing one of his fellow Hebrews, Moses flees Egypt and winds up in a land called Midian. While there, he finds a wife and settles down, working for his father-in-law, Jethro, a prosperous landowner. Moses is living, as we've come to call it, "The American Dream."

However, God has other plans. While Moses is out working in the field one day, the Lord comes to him in the form of a "burning bush" and asks Moses to return to Egypt and help God free the Jewish people from their captivity. Moses is now faced, as Feiler describes it, with his second defining "life choice": stay where he is and continue to enjoy his comfortable existence, or follow God's call into the unknown.

As we know of course, Moses chooses to answer God's call. He returns to Egypt and leads the Jewish people out of captivity and on their way to the Promised Land. And because of that, both his own and an entire people's

### AARP Chapter Sets Meeting For Monday

WESTFIELD – Westfield Area Chapter 4137 of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will meet next on Monday, March 1, at 1 p.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club, located at Plainfield Avenue and Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains. Program Co-Chairman Ilse Heinemeyer has arranged for Dr. Karen Kulikowski to be the guest speaker. A professor of Health Related Professions/UMDNJ, Department of Allied Dental Education in Scotch Plains, she will discuss the multiple dental services offered to the general public. Dental students perform these services under appropriate supervision, and the students are marked on the kind of work they do.

Skeets Kuzmuk, community services chairman, is collecting non-perishable food items to be given to the Westfield Food Pantry. Lottie Sworen is collecting Campbell's Soup labels and metal pull tabs for various veterans' causes.

A social hour with refreshments will follow the business meeting. Westfield Area Chapter 4137 invites area residents to attend its meetings and to join the local chapter.

destiny are changed forever.

As those of us who are Christian and our Jewish brothers and sisters enter the most sacred seasons of Lent and Passover, respectively, we are reminded that God continually presents us with the same choice Moses was given long ago – remain affixed in the "comfortable" place we are now (whether that comfort is material, social or professional) or follow God's call into the unknown in order to help free those who are somehow in captivity in our time.

Today, there are still millions throughout the world, as well as thousands in this country, who are victims of human trafficking and live in literal slavery. Today, there are still millions who are captive to physical, emotional, sexual and substance abuse. Today, there are still millions held in bondage by political and religious systems that deny them the opportunity to receive quality, basic education. Will we choose to stay in our comfortable "personal Midians" or make the same choice that Moses made and change both our own and another's destiny forever?

\*\*\*\*\*

*Reverend Boyeca is senior minister of the First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. On the March 6 edition of "Mountain Views," a weekly religious affairs program broadcast by cable channel WMBC-TV, he has been invited to discuss the issues of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.*

### Caregivers Meeting On Tap For Monday

WESTFIELD – A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones will meet on Monday, March 1, at 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, located on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield. Meetings are held on the first non-holiday Monday of each month. These are information and sharing sessions. For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 233-8757.

### Lions Club to Hold Pancake Breakfast

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Lions Club will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Scotch Hills Country Club, located at Jerusalem Road and Plainfield Avenue in Scotch Plains.

This "all-you-can-eat" breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, ham and sausage, along with juice, coffee, tea and milk. The cost of the breakfast is \$6. Children under age 6 may attend for free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance from a Lions Club member.

The event is one of multiple fundraisers held by this Lions Club, the proceeds of which are distributed to local charities and community activities, with a particular emphasis on organizations throughout the area that serve the blind and visually impaired. For more information on the Scotch Plains Lions Pancake Breakfast or to reserve a spot, call Pancake Breakfast Chairman Ron Kelly at (908) 753-8218.



**ROTARY BENEFICIARIES...** Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club members gather with representatives of community organizations that received proceeds from the club's annual 50-50 raffle. Pictured, from left to right, are: Seated, Carol Kraus, Amy Carow, Carol Perkins and her husband, Wales, and Louis Jung, and standing, Steve Goldberg, Andy Calamaras, Bill McClintock, Club President Janet Strunk, Club Secretary John Crisafulli, Sean Duffy, Karen Dreixler and Jim Checchio.

## Library Ceremony to Mark Debut of Museum Posters

WESTFIELD – Gail Stavitsky, chief curator of the Montclair Art Museum, will be guest speaker at a ceremony this Saturday, February 27, at 1:30 p.m. marking the opening of a permanent exhibit of museum posters at the Westfield Memorial Library. The event will take place at the library, located at 550 East Broad Street.

Ms. Stavitsky's talk will focus on two of the top shows hosted by the Montclair Museum, including the recently opened "A Force of Change: African-American Art and the Julius Rosenwald Fund."

The Rosenwald Fund enabled artists and writers to pursue their artistic visions. Represented in the exhibit is the work of 20 artists – among them Jacob Lawrence and Elizabeth Catlett – who received Rosenwald fellowships from 1928 to 1948. Ms. Stavitsky

will discuss the show's emphasis on the power of philanthropy to affect artistic and social progress.

She also will present an overview of "Cezanne and American Modernism," the subject of a show that closed recently at the museum and attracted much attention from visitors and the media.

The Friends of the Westfield Library will host the event, which will unveil framed posters representing all of the museums involved in the library's museum pass program. The posters will line the walls of the library's meeting room. Linnea Rhodes, co-president of the Friends, is coordinating the poster project.

This program will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact Linnea Rhodes at linneawrhodes@gmail.com.

## Stacy Roth to Celebrate Past At 'Good Old Colony Times'

GARWOOD – The Garwood Public Library will host a program with historical interpreter and balladeer Stacy Roth on Tuesday, March 9, at 7 p.m. Ms. Roth will present "Good Old Colony Times," a humorous and informative collection of anecdotes and songs that tell of love, courtship and politics in the 18th century, performed in the attire of the age to bring Colonial American history to life.

An interpreter, museum educator, historian and information specialist, Ms. Roth has performed and presented for museums, libraries, schools, civic organizations and festivals throughout the area. She is a speaker with the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Ms. Roth holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Kean College of New Jersey, a Master of Arts degree in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University. She also is the author of "Past Into Present: Effective Techniques for First-Person Historical

Interpretation," published by the University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Registration is required for this event. Interested persons may sign up at the information desk at the library, by calling (908) 789-1670 or online at youseemore.com/garwood using the interactive calendar.

The Garwood Public Library is located at 411 Third Avenue. It is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Rotary Club Raffle Proceeds Benefit Local Organizations

SCOTCH PLAINS – Community organizations that provide services at low cost to those in need recently received proceeds from the Rotary Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains' annual 50-50 raffle. The presentations were made February 17 at the Colo-

nial-era Stage House Inn in Scotch Plains.

Carol Kraus received a share of nearly \$15,000 raised from local donors, to be used by Resolve Community Counseling Center to help provide services on an income-based sliding scale. Amy Carow received funds to help extend leadership training to a range of students under the auspices of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Student Leadership Council.

Louis Jung accepted support for the Fanwood Community Foundation. Andy Calamaras accepted a donation for the Frazee House restoration. Sean Duffy accepted on behalf of the Dave Ringle Scholarship Fund. Karen Dreixler accepted for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA and Jim Checchio accepted for the local Athletic Boosters, the goals of which include providing sports opportunities to youngsters who might not otherwise be able to afford participation.

Carol Perkins won a top prize in the raffle. Other prize winners were Steve Goldberg and Bill McClintock.

According to the organization, the efforts of Rotary Club President Janet Strunk and Club Secretary John Crisafulli made the complex raffle successful.

The Rotary Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains invites interested people to attend club luncheons any Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. at Pantagis Renaissance restaurant in Scotch Plains. For more information, contact Michael Dietrich at (908) 789-3175 or membership@fsproatary.org.



**STITCHED WITH LOVE...** The 17th annual Lenten Quilt-a-thon will take place this Saturday, February 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help make quilts to be donated to at-risk babies at area hospitals and transitional homes. Participants are asked to bring a pair of scissors and lunch or a snack. The church is located at 250 Gallows Hill Road.

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Blue Devil boys break WHS  
4x400 Record – See page 13

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 9-13

Lady Blue Devils Win Section;  
Boys Fall to BrH2O, 86-84

By J.B. RAYMOND  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

PERTH AMBOY – If baseball is a game of inches, then swimming is a game of tenths, even hundredths of a second.

And in the state tournament, where every single point can be precious, those tenths and hundredths of a second can add up. Unfortunately for the Westfield High School (WHS) boys swim team, they added up to heart-break last Thursday at the Raritan Bay YMCA, when the second-seeded Blue Devils fell to top-seeded Bridgewater-Raritan (B-R), 86-84, in a North 2, Public A championship that was every bit as close as the score indicated. Bridgewater (10-2), which had lost to WHS in the past three sectional finals and six of the past eight, advanced to the state semifinals.

The WHS girls (15-1), intent on regaining the state Public A trophy, rolled to a 96-74 victory over Bridgewater-Raritan, a team they'd beaten, 89-81, earlier in the season. Senior Suzanne Lemberg won the 200-individual medley, the 100-free and anchored two winning relays. The girls faced North 1 winner, Ridgewood, on February 23 and, with a win, would be in the state final this Sunday, 3:30 p.m., at the College of New Jersey against the Atlantic City vs. (defending state champ) West Windsor-Plainsboro South winner.

The WHS boys (11-5) led from the opening event through nine events. But B-R went 1-2-5 in the breast-stroke, for an 80-76 lead into the 400-freestyle relay. WHS needed a 1-3 finish, while B-R could have won with a 2-3 finish. And that's what happened. The WHS foursome of Nick Boyle (49.77), Mike Oster (50.23), Matt Daniel (50.76) and Matt Meserole (46.35) went a season-best 3:17.11, but B-R easily took second and third.

"Our kids swam their hearts out for

the most part," WHS coach Jeff Knight said. "But it seemed like their kids wanted it a little more."

After the 50-freestyle, WHS led 35-27 and was in good position to put B-R away. But the next four events – the 100-fly, 100-free, 500-free and 200-free relay – changed everything. Knight had anticipated getting 35 points in those events but only got 28. If it had been just 29 or 30 points, Knight could have held Jack Lorentzen out of the breaststroke and had him for either the A or B final relay, likely giving WHS a 1-3 finish and the championship.

But only leading 71-69 after the backstroke and knowing that B-R had a possible 1-2-3 in the breaststroke, Lorentzen was needed to break that up, which he did with a third place. When sophomore Alex Bond dropped his best time two full seconds to a 1:06.77 for a surprise fourth place, the score was B-R 80, WHS 76.

The meet came down to the final relay – as it had in 2005 and 2006 – and B-R had enough firepower left to take the decisive B relay, and the winning two points, by four seconds.

"They just stepped up more than we did," Knight said. "Bridgewater swam a great meet."

Ironically, WHS seemed to have swum faster (and scored far more power points) in its semifinal victory over Montgomery, although there were quite a few outstanding swimmers against Bridgewater. Daniel, a freshman, posted lifetime bests in the 200-free (1:54.35) and 100-fly (57.96). Freshman Tim Walsh was a surprise winner in the 50-free (22.75). Sophomore Brennan Haley turned in best times in the very tough 500-free (5:05.90) to 100-backstroke (57.56) double. Senior John Taylor had lifetime bests in the 200 (1:50.93) and 500 (5:08.79) freestyles.

"You want to talk about two teams that bring out the best in each other,

that's what you had here," B-R coach Sean Foley said.

But Westfield hasn't been the state's dominant public school team the last 20 years because a handful of swimmers have big drops in the state tournament. It's usually been best times across the board, by every swimmer. That didn't happen this time.

A tenth of a second here, a hundredth of a second there, a touch-out here, a touch-out there, and the WHS boys would now be about 72 hours from probably celebrating their state-record 23rd state championship. Instead it is Bridgewater, which this Sunday will likely be celebrating its second title.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

BARBER, SKIBITSKY PLACE 2ND; HENRY, KIM, JACOBS, STEINFELD 3RD

Blue Devil Kalimtzis, Raider Bundy Win  
Titles at District 11 Wrestling Tourney

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Excitement and plenty of very tight bouts saturated the semifinals and championship rounds of the District 11 Wrestling Tournament in Westfield on February 20. In the end, top-10 ranked David Brearley (Bears) won the team title with a total of 211.5 and claimed six individual titles, including the Outstanding Wrestler Award (Dan Ries – 140 lbs).

The Cranford (C) Cougars placed second with 156 points and claimed five champions. Rahway (R) placed third at 108. Linden (L) was fourth at 92, Westfield was fifth at 77, Scotch Plains-Fanwood took sixth at 65.5, followed by Elizabeth (E) at 46, Newark Central at 12 and Union Catholic



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AVOIDING BACK POINTS...Blue Devil Troy Skibitsky, left, arches before rolling away from Raider Tristan Bundy in the 125-lb championship bout at the District 11 Tournament in Westfield on February 20. Bundy won, 3-1.

at 4 points.

Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis drew the top seed at 103 lbs and pinned Raider Lucas Cimafronte with a double arm bar in 55 seconds to advance to the finals to face Josh Sheehy (L).

"I have seen him wrestle before. I saw that his takedown is good, but I am going to wrestle my match and keep my defense going," Kalimtzis said.

Kalimtzis went to work immediately on Sheehy with a takedown before pinning him with a half nelson in 1:51 to claim the title.

"I saw an opening on a single, so I took it. I kept the pressure on him and made sure I wrestled my match," Kalimtzis said.

Previously, Cimafronte scored a takedown in overtime to grab a 2-0 decision over Keith McCarthy (R).

Cougar Joe Giaccio used a series of pipe wrench and two-on-one tilts to claim a 16-0, 3:12, technical fall in his opening 112-lb bout. Next, he pinned Dan Tibere (L) with a figure four of the head in 1:42.

"I took him down right away," Giaccio said. "He seemed easy to bar, and I figure-foured that [head] and got the quick pin. I am ready for the finals. I'm ready to win."

Giaccio was to face Bear Anthony Madonia, whom he pinned in 38 seconds for the county title.

"A lot of people may have thought it was a fluke, but I am looking to do the same thing this time. I think I

will," Giaccio said.

This time, Giaccio punished Madonia to record a 16-1, 5:59, technical fall for his third District 11 title.

Top-seeded Raider Tristan Bundy received a bye at 125 lbs, before recording a 16-1, 5:41, tech fall over Ralph Stadler (E) in the semis. On the other side of the 125-lb bracket, Blue Devil Troy Skibitsky recorded a pair of takedowns and a reversal before pinning Quinton Anderson (R) in 3:08 with a smothering half nelson. In the semis, Skibitsky scored a reversal and punished Cougar Brian Buontempo with some strong top control to grab a 2-1 win and advance to the finals to face Bundy.

"I knew he was a strong kid. I would go to that half [nelson], but I

couldn't turn him. Second period, I got a reversal. Third period, my conditioning is really what helped me win that match. We condition harder than any other team, and that paid off. I rode him the entire third period pretty much," Skibitsky said.

"Troy was aggressive on top. I think that's where he won the match. He wore the kid down," said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "I thought Troy wrestled a good match and he is in good shape for the finals. I hope he opens up a little bit more on his feet."

Looking toward his bout with Bundy, Skibitsky said, "He's a good wrestler. I'm just going to go out there and work what I practice every day. Hopefully, it will all go well for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

VENEZIA GETS CAREER-HIGH 31 PTS., 17 REBOUNDS

Devils Silence Cougars, 43-26;  
Coach Marino Gets 100th Win

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Milestones marked the Westfield High School girls stunning, 43-26, victory over the Cranford Cougars on February 16 in Cranford. First, senior forward Diana Venezia scored a career-high 31 points, which led to the second milestone of coach Joe Marino receiving his 100th victory as Blue Devil head coach.

However, Venezia was not finished. With 17 rebounds, she also tied her career high, while adding two blocks and two steals. Her offensive production consisted of three 3-pointers, eight buckets from the 2-point range

and six of seven free throws.

"We knew coming in that it would be coach's 100th win. We all wanted to come out and play hard. We came out with a shaky start, but after we settled down, I thought we played good team basketball," Venezia said. "She is a very good player," Cougar Head Coach Jackie Huber said. "I have seen her play since she was a freshman, and I knew she was going to be good. It just shows how she has blossomed as a player."

"Thirty-one points! She went crazy," coach Marino said. "The girls were ready to play today. We lost to them the last time, and we played

well. We started off a little flat, but then as the time went on, we made things happen. They (Cranford) are a well-coached team."

The 15-6 Cougars had beaten the Blue Devils, 48-40, on January 12. At the time, the Blue Devils were struggling with a 2-6 record. Since then, the Blue Devils have reeled in 10 victories of 11 games. Their only loss was to the Summit Hilltoppers, which stung them at the buzzer to win, 44-42. Interestingly, the Blue Devils' next game was in the Union County Tournament (UCT) on February 18, so their hot streak has come at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

**Kimberley Aslanian Haley**

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

HEADING FOR THE BASKET...Raider Erin Brown, No. 14, dribbles toward the basket in the game against Watchung Hills.

## SEBOLAO NETS 11, OLIVER SINKS 10

# Lady Warriors Frustrate Raider Hoopsters, 54-32

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

John Lennon's song "Just Like Starting Over" had a familiar tone in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team's, 54-32, loss to Watchung Hills in Scotch Plains on February 18.

At the beginning of the season, first-year Raider Head Coach Jen Ryan inherited a team that had no returning starters and only two with varsity experience, juniors Aysia Peterson and Evie Klotz. Peterson, a forward, went down with an injury early in the season then recently Klotz, the point guard, got sidelined, forcing coach Ryan to reorganize her team.

"We are trying to keep the frustration level down. When your point guard goes down, things happen differently on the court, so kids have to step up, play different roles and feel a little uncomfortable," coach Ryan said. "That's just the way it goes. That's the way the season has been going. I keep telling them what doesn't kill us will make us stronger down the road. We will just have to take our lumps. Everyone is getting opportunities that maybe we wouldn't have had if everybody stayed healthy."

Coach Ryan relied mostly on freshman Taylor Sebolao to bring the ball down court and set up the plays against the 12-8 Warriors. Sebolao finished with 11 points, including two 3-pointers, and added a pair of rebounds and two assists.

"Taylor is a very good ball handler," said coach Ryan. "We are working on building her confidence. It's hard to

find a backup point guard, because there's a lot of making sure that everybody is OK. We are not OK right now. We are having a hard time finding someone to convince us that we are OK. It's definitely a different look."

On many occasions, the Raiders were looking to get the ball into the hands of freshman center Renee Oliver, who finished with 10 points, eight rebounds, two blocks and a tip, a steal and one assist. Junior Becca Kreyer hit a 3-pointer and added three assists, a steal and four rebounds. Erin Brown (3 rebounds), Kelsey Meisch, Liz Gallo and Christine Monroy (3 rebounds, 2 steals) each scored 2 points.

The Warriors took advantage of the inexperienced Raiders' impatience, created numerous steals and sped to a 26-12, halftime lead. Brielle Macellara, who finished with 12 points, hit three 3-pointers in the half. Amy Park, who also had 12 points, hit a pair of 3-pointers, and Rosalie Minovich hit one of her two 3-pointers in the half. The Raiders continued to rush their passes and shooting in the second half.

"I sound like a broken record sometimes," coach Ryan said. "I say, 'take care of the ball.' Sometimes, we are so careless with our passes and our catches. Without a shot clock, you can take your time. You can set things back up again. We feel so rushed sometimes. That's part of finding out who we are as a team. What tempo do we work best at? Right now, it's definitely not fast."

Watchung Hills 13 13 12 16 54  
Sc. Pl.-Fanwood 5 7 10 10 32



## Devil's Den

# 'Battle of Trinity Place' A Short-Lived Classic

By BRUCE JOHNSON

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It was called the "Battle of Trinity Place," which was pretty close to accurate.

We're talking about the short-lived Westfield High School (WHS) vs. Holy Trinity basketball rivalry. It only lasted nine seasons, but it was every bit as intense as WHS's games with Scotch Plains and Cranford. It was, after all, for town bragging rights.

Most of the nine games were played before standing-room-only crowds at WHS on cold January Saturday nights back in the 1950s and '60s.

Holy Trinity was a legitimate parochial school, as opposed to the AAU/Travel/All-Star teams that have arisen across New Jersey over the past two decades, cleverly disguised as Catholic and Jesuit schools of higher learning. Most, if not all, of those attending Holy Trinity were really and truly student-athletes. They were there for the Catholic education, and had been attending Catholic schools most of their lives.

But Holy Trinity most definitely was also a good athletic school, producing championship teams in football, basketball and baseball over the years.

There were also some outstanding athletes — Jack Gillespie, a star for the amateur Westfield Hawks (1938-43, 1949-55) and 1,000-point scorer Joe Cullinan come to mind. And more than a few of WHS's best athletes in the '60s and '70s were products of Trinity's grammar schooling, like Bobby Flynn, Fred Byrne, Don Knobloch, Tim Goski, Mark Jackson, Bob and John Davis, Dave Yaticilla, Matt McDonough and Billy Kane, to name a few.

But back to the hoops rivalry. Here are the scores and highlights of WHS vs. Holy Trinity boys games:

1955, WHS 63, Holy Trinity 50: In the first game ever at Trinity's new gymnasium, WHS ran its win streak to 10 games. Don Feeley led the winners with 19 points, but game honors went to Trinity's Jimmy Whalen with 20 points, including a dozen from the foul line. *The Westfield Leader* reported: "This game was the start of what could develop into an interesting inter-city rivalry."

1956, WHS 75, Holy Trinity 73: The rivalry got a little chippy, as this game saw both teams make more foul shots

than baskets. Ferdy Shoemaker, Roger Love and Neil Paxson all fouled out for WHS, which got 29 points from Mac Quigley (13 of 14 free throws). Fred Walz topped Trinity with 35 points.

1957, WHS 70, Holy Trinity 56: Jody Freeman had 17 points, Spencer Thompson 16 and Mac Quigley 15 in a balanced WHS attack. Roger Love fouled out for the second straight year, his fifth coming on a "double foul" with Trinity's Bob Feeley. Dave Ryan led Trinity with 18 points, Fran Cagnassola added 12 and Feeley 11.

1958, WHS 65, Holy Trinity 41: WHS jumped out to a 20-5 first-period lead and built it to 37-10 at halftime. John Guthrie had 12 and Larry Ritchie 11 for WHS. Jim Devine and Nick Delmonaco led Trinity with 13 and 12, respectively.

1959, WHS 68, Holy Trinity 49: Before a packed home gym on a Saturday night, WHS improved to 11-1. Tom Gilson topped the Devils with 18 points, while Wayne Walz led Trinity with 14.

1960, WHS 54, Holy Trinity 35: Playing in front of another standing-room-only Saturday night crowd at WHS, coach Mickey Hamon's Braves threw a full-court press at the Devils and made it a game for a half (WHS led 23-21). Charlie Hoppin had 15 for the winners, while Bob Aschenbrenner topped Trinity with 11.

1961, Holy Trinity 45, WHS 38: One game after losing to Roselle Park in overtime, as future NBA star Rick Barry pumped in 53 points, WHS lost to Trinity for the first time, before another Saturday night jammed gym. With the game tied at 33, Trinity scored 10 straight — a layup by Paul Foley, two jumpers by Tom Devitt and four free throws by Bill Brennan. Pete Tinnesz (who lived across the street from me on Embree Crescent) led the winners with 12 points, while Bill Clancy had 15 for WHS.

The series was discontinued after the 1961 season, but picked up again during the 1968-69 season.

1969, WHS 61, Holy Trinity 47: Tom Scott had 20 points and helped control the boards for the Blue Devils. Mike Spirko netted 19 for Trinity,

which brought a four-game winning streak into the December 27, 1968, contest.

1970, Holy Trinity 77, WHS 67: Joe Cullinan scored 32 for the Blue Braves, including 21 in the opening half. WHS got within one in the second half, but a three-point play by John Goski and a jumper by Mike Spirko put Trinity back in control. Jim Dello-Russo had 15 and Dave Lindley 11 for the Blue Devils.

There was also a short series between the WHS and Holy Trinity girls teams. WHS's girls team had gained national fame and recognition back in the mid-1920s, but the sport was dropped in 1926 and was not restarted until 1973.

Here are the WHS vs. Holy Trinity girls scores and highlights:

1973, WHS 62, Holy Trinity 36: Debbie Lawyer scored a school-record 17 points, and sophomore sensation Julie DeCosta added 11 for the Devils.

1974, WHS 45, Holy Trinity 26: The Devils improved to 3-3, as Barb Owston led a balanced attack with 9 points, with Donna Schadle, Eileen Jackson and Debbie Lawyer each adding 8.

(Lawyer scored a school-record 37 against Roselle Park in 1974, which still stands as the "modern" mark. Ruth Miller netted 57 against Glen Ridge back in 1923, when there were center jumps after each basket.)

1975, WHS 66, Holy Trinity 51: Westfield resident Debbie Townsend, who attended public school through junior high school, scored 25 for Trinity, but it wasn't enough. Eileen Jackson had 16 and Sue Early had 12 for WHS.

1976, WHS 33, Holy Trinity 25: Sue Early scored 12 points in a game that *Leader* reporter Joe Della Badia called a "sluggish, sub-par performance against the down-the-street rivals."

After that, the short-lived "Battle of Trinity Place" was over. Holy Trinity High School, which opened in 1922, closed in June 1976. (The last senior class president was Kevin Marino, currently the lead attorney for St. Patrick basketball coach Kevin Boyle in his court case with the NJSIAA about out-of-season practices.) The former high school is now Holy Trinity Interparochial School, for grades 1 through 8. The 60-year-old former grammar school across the street was sold and became the "Trinity Gardens" condominiums.

## DEN JEOPARDY ANSWER

Al Leonzi

## WRESTLING UPDATE

Congrats to sophomore Mike Kalintzis, who followed up his Union County Tournament title by winning the District 11, 103-lb championship last Saturday. Also reaching the finals was sophomore Troy Skibitsky (125) and junior Christian Barber (140). Skibitsky dropped a 3-1 decision to Tristan Bundy, Scotch Plains-Fanwood's 100-plus-match winner. Barber, seeking his third district title, lost for the third time this winter to Brearley's Danny Ries, whose last-second takedown earned him a 4-3 victory and MOW of the tournament.

WHS finished fifth in the team scoring.

## BASKETBALL UPDATE

Congrats to girls basketball coach Joe Marino, who picked up his 100th victory last week in a 43-26 rout of 15-6 Cranford. Senior Diana Venezia had career highs with 31 points and 17 rebounds.

Marino, the girls head coach since 2000, has been coaching football, basketball and baseball in Westfield on every level from freshman to varsity since the 1986-87 season.

The seventh-seeded girls also knocked off second-seeded Summit, 47-45, in the quarterfinals of the county tournament on a last-second basket by Charlotte Lorentzen. They played third-seeded Roselle in the semifinals on Tuesday.

The boys team, which will play at Bayonne in its first-round state tourney game on March 2, won its county tournament opener, 54-46, over the 14-6 Dayton Bulldogs. Hugo Nolasco erupted for a timely and career-best 21 points, as WHS had to overcome foul problems that limited Pat Sabatino to just two points. The Devils lost to fourth-seeded Union, 44-37, on Saturday night.

Faithful Reader Ed Thorne noted a mistake in last week's Den, where we listed the 1959 basketball team's 24 wins as still the school record. Actually, the 1972 state Group 4 champion team's final record was 25-2. The five winningest seasons are: 25-2 in 1972, 24-2 in 1973, 24-3 in 1959, 23-3 in 1962, 21-3 in 1963.

## SWIMMING UPDATE

In the North 2 Public A showdowns against Bridgewater-Raritan last Thursday at the Raritan Bay YMCA, the WHS girls romped and advanced to Tuesday's state semifinal against Ridgewood, while the boys came up just short, ending their quest for what would have been a record 23rd state title.

## PICTURES SOUGHT

The Jackson family is looking for old pictures of the late Paul Jackson (WHS, '79). If anyone has any old little league, Edison Junior High School or WHS team photos or game movies, or any shots of Paul while he was coaching the PAL football team, contact Mary Jackson at mljak@aol.com.

## DEN JEOPARDY QUESTION

Who coached the 1969 WHS wrestling team, along with former WHS swim coach Joe Kursar, while Gary Kehler was sidelined by hepatitis? The team, captained by Bill Kenny, went 9-3 and captured the District 12 title.

## DEVILS OF THE WEEK

This week's winners of a free sub from Westfield Subs (261 South Avenue East) are Bob McKeon and Dave Fishman. The seniors captured the high jump (5-10) and pole vault (12-6) to help WHS to a second-place finish at the North 2 Group 4 indoor track meet.

*The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the school year. Contact me with comments, complaints and suggestions at bj1019@aol.com. Win or not, WHS4EVR!*

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ROGERS NETS 13, SABATINO HITS 9, GRABS 10 BOARDS

Farmers Harvest, 44-37, Win Over Blue Devil Boys in UCT

By FRED LECOMTE  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Near perfection was needed to upset the fourth-seeded Union High School boys' basketball team, but the fifth-seeded Blue Devils of Westfield became victims of a defensive scheme resulting in a 44-37 loss in the quarterfinal round of the Union County Tournament at Roselle Catholic High School on February 20.

Chidoziem Ikwuegbu had a strong evening on both sides of the court, putting in a season-high 13 points, while Jon Merceus added eight points, five assists and 11 rebounds. Westfield senior point guard Jaraad Rogers, who

a little bit in the fourth to kind of get a little distance. Overall, we played a very solid defense tonight by holding them to 44. At the end of the game, we were kind of scrambling around. Offensively, we needed to make more shots and get a couple of more shot opportunities," said Westfield Head Coach Kevin Everly.

In the first quarter, the 9-11 Blue Devils came out on an icy slide as the Farmers jumped out to a 10-5 lead. Sabatino hit a bucket, followed with a free throw and Hess rolled in his jumper inside the paint. Kamarsky, summoned off the bench, hit his 3-pointer from the right side perimeter

as the Farmers kept it together enough to up its lead to 36-29 highlighted by Chris Foreman's 3-pointer and a jumper by Mitchum. Union went on to win the quarter, 13-10.

"We held them to 44, which was our goal, but offensively we struggled. We could not keep up with them. They had that run where we just could not buy a basket and they kept running on us and we could not slow them down. Offensive rebounds, that was another thing; that gives us second opportunities, but we came up short. Personally, I attacked the basket well, wanting to get to the line and put them in foul trouble," said Rogers.

Westfield	8	9	10	10	37
Union	12	10	9	13	44

Plainfield Cagers Beat Raiders in UCT, 67-28

Junior Tyrone Johnson bucketed 18 points, including a vicious, rim-dangling slam dunk in the second quarter, to lead the 19-2 Plainfield High School boys basketball team to a 67-28 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood in the opening round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway on February 17.

Chuck Oliver led the 6-15 Raiders with 10 points. Doran Nelson had 7 points, Matt Jegede had 6 points and Denzel Clark had 3 points.

Sc. Pl.-Fanwood	7	6	7	8	28
Plainfield	13	21	20	13	67



GUARDING A FARMER...Blue Devil Jaraad Rogers, No.3, defends the basket. Rogers also bucketed 13 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and added two steals.

came on strong in the second and third quarter, led the team with 13 points, including two 3-pointers, and finished five-of-six from the foul line and made two steals. Senior center Pat Sabatino, despite being doubled and tripled down throughout the game, distributed the ball well with seven assists, while scoring 9 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. Junior forward Ryan Hess bucketed 7 points, including five free throws. Senior guard Max Fusaro and Joe Kasmarsky each hit a bucket from downtown and Mark Androconis sank the other 2 points.

"Union is very well coached defensively and did a good job. They're aggressive and they can play a good on-the-ball defense. I think the difference in the game was their ability to turn us over in the third quarter and

that cut the margin to two points, but Merceus' easy lay-up underneath gave the Farmers a 12-8 lead.

Turnovers and missed shots plagued the Blue Devils in the second quarter, while the Farmers shared the wealth among three players to grab a 22-17 lead at the half. Rogers scored 5 points, Androconis hit a 2-pointer and Hess sank two from the stripe.

The Blue Devils held their own for most of the third quarter with successful inside and outside passing and won the quarter, 10-9. Rogers banged two 3-pointers and Sabatino forced in two baskets.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils closed to within 31-29 on a pair of free throws by Hess. Later, the tide changed, however, as the Blue Devils hands appeared to turn to stone,



MANEUVERING AROUND THE COUGAR DEFENDER...Blue Devil forward Diana Venezia, No. 15, maneuvers around Cougar Katie McGovern in Cranford. Venezia had a career-high 31 points and 17 rebounds.

Devils Silence Cougars; Marino Gets 100th Win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

right time.

"Exactly! We lost at the buzzer. It hit us hard. Now, we are ready to play them," Venezia said. "We just want to keep it going. Union County Tournament! That's what we have always been looking forward to, and I feel confident that our team can do it."

Foul trouble early on, especially to senior guard Jamie Webb, spelled the Cougars' demise. The Cougars did win the first quarter, 8-5, but the Blue

Devils began driving to the basket in the second quarter and successfully drew fouls, which included a technical foul. Six of the Blue Devils' 12 points in the quarter came via free throws.

"That's what we started to do. We were playing on the perimeter in the beginning then what we just started to do was drive to create it, because we knew that they were not going to be able to stay with Katie (Ponce) and Amanda (Markowski)," coach Marino explained.

"I would have to say [it was] because we were tired. Yesterday, we were down by 10. We came back and ended up winning by seven. We gave all of our energy out on that," coach Huber said.

Just the day before in the UCT opening round, the Blue Devils had defeated Governor Livingston, 49-41, in a 6 p.m. game and the Cougars defeated Union, 50-43, in a later game. Coach Huber felt that those games and the fact that Cranford had school on the day of their game with Westfield could have been a contributing factor.

"They didn't have school today, so they got to rest all day. They played at 6:00 yesterday, got home a little early, so they had fresh legs. Our girls were going all day long, so that was a disadvantage to us," she said.

Venezia stepped up her offense even more in the second half by scoring 8

points in the third quarter and another 12 in the fourth, but her positioning under the boards for rebounds was nearly perfect throughout.

"A lot of it has to do with finding your spot," she said. "Everybody contributed. Anne Knisely is back and she got some good minutes. Also Jamie Webb is one of their bigger players, and knowing that she had some foul trouble early worked to our benefit. Cranford is always a good team. Always a good rivalry!"

Senior guard Markowski, who had four assists, and forward Charlotte Lorentzen, who had three assists, each had 6 points, four rebounds and an assist. Danielle Miller (3 rebounds) and Ponce (4 assists, rebound) created havoc with four and three steals, respectively, and Knisely (2 rebounds, assist), recently back in the lineup, solidified the Blue Devils' defense.

Senior forward Danielle Gross led the Cougars with 9 points. She also grabbed seven rebounds and had a steal. Guard Jess McCoy (6 points, steal, assist, block) pulled down 10 rebounds, and senior forward Taylor D'Antico had 4 points, six rebounds and two assists. Sara Gugliucci banged a 3-pointer. Webb (4 rebounds, 2 steals) and Morgan Miller (4 rebounds, 2 assists, block) each had 2 points.

Westfield	5	12	10	16	43
Cranford	8	2	9	7	26

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ELEGANT HOMES BY RALPH RAPUANO



Westfield. New homes to be built in New Subdivision. Many options available. Very deep properties that are close to Franklin School and Center of Town. Work with builder and customize plans to create your perfect home. 4 Bedrooms 3.5 Baths prestigious Center Hall Colonials are planned. Hardwood floors throughout, custom millwork, & spa like retreat Master bath are a given. Intercom, central vac, & stereo system are just a few of the many appointments included in this gem.

OPEN HOUSE SUN FEB 28TH 12 - 4 PM



Scotch Plains. 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath Bi-Level with beautiful hardwood floors under carpet on 1st level. Wood burning fireplace in Living Room, newer GE Profile appliances, large deck off Eat-In-Kitchen, large rooms, walk out to patio from lower level Family Room, Central Air Conditioning, built-in 2 car over-sized garage. Directions: Westfield Road to Old Farm Road #2242.

OPEN HOUSE SUN FEB 28TH 12 - 4 PM



Cranford. Impeccably renovated Colonial offers cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel. Dining Room with boxed beam ceiling and French doors to trex deck and living room with fireplace. Updated windows, new master bath, siding, roof, elec, plumbing and more. Set on a tranquil tree lined street just moments from picturesque downtown Cranford, great shops and NY transportation. Join us for a tour of this terrific home. Directions: Centennial to Lincoln to Mansion #28.

SPLIT LEVEL



Scotch Plains. Completely redone spacious 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath Split on a quiet cul de sac. New Eat-In-Kitchen with hardwood floors, Granite counter tops, Formal Dining Room with sliders to deck, huge Living Room, Family Room, new Central Air Conditioning and roof. Lawn sprinkler system, 1 car built-in garage with a loft for storage.

OPEN HOUSE SUN FEB 28TH 12 - 4 PM



Mountainside. This 4 BR 3.1 Bath home offers a open spacious floor plan. The renovated ELK is detailed with granite countertops, high end appliances & a granite topped breakfast bar. Marble floors & custom tile work enhance the renov baths. Ground floor has a MBR Suite & home office has sliding doors to the patio & IG pool. Two FRs-1st floor & ground level- offer plenty of room for entertaining. Upgrades include high quality replacement windows, newer furnace and central air. Directions: New Providence, Deer Path, Fox Trail, Grouse, Hawk Ridge, Ravens Wood #279.

OPEN HOUSE SUN FEB 28TH 12 - 4 PM



Scotch Plains. California Contemporary on 3/4 acres of private hilltop property. Open floor plan, 3 spacious Bedrooms, entertainment sized Eat-In-Kitchen, Formal Dining Room, bright and airy Living Room, Family Room with wood burning fireplace, full finished basement, hardwood floors, enclosed porch, large deck, and 2 car oversized built-in garage. Could easily be converted back to 4 Bedrooms. Home Warranty. Directions: Rahway to Swans Mill to Short Hills La. to Right on Woodland #1231.

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David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
ABOUT TO WIN THE TITLE...Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis, top, pinned Josh Sheehy of Linden in 1:51 to claim the District 11, 103-lb title.



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
SAVING HIS ENERGY...Blue Devil Brian Henry, front, rests while he has Raider Josh Foote locked in a double arm bar in the 145-lb bout.



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*  
COMING BACK WITH A FURY...Blue Devil Bill Kim, top, claimed a 12-2, majority decision over Linden's Bob Clark to place third at 171 lbs.

## Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis, Raider Tristan Bundy Win Titles at District 11 Wrestling Tournament

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

me.”

Bundy and Skibitsky had a tight championship bout. Bundy recorded a double-leg trip takedown and an escape to grab a 3-1 victory.

“At this point in the season, I want to be wrestling my best. The whole point of the wrestling season is to get ready for this weekend, the individual weekends,” Bundy said. “Basically, everybody comes to this with a zero-zero record. The most important thing is to win here to get to the states. I’m going to go out there, stick to my game plan, work my takedowns and do what I do best to come out with a win.”

Cougar Kyle Markovitch (130 lbs) pinned Blue Devil Keith Peterson in 1:20 with a half nelson and arm clamp, then he decisioned Raider Sean Cannon, 4-0, to advance to the title bout with Bear Allen Phillips. Markovitch came on strong with a step-over takedown to a two-point nearfall, but as the bout wore on, a series of warnings that resulted in penalty points for Phillips created much confusion. The scoreboard showed Markovitch winning 4-3, but after a long discussion, it was ruled a 4-4 tie, sending the bout to overtime where he took care of business with a takedown.

“I thought I won, and I was having a cup of water and wasn’t thinking about it. I gave up some pretty stupid points,” said Markovitch, who claimed his third district title. “When they told me, I had to keep my head straight. I had to go out there and wrestle tough again, get that takedown and win the match.”

Seeded second at 135 lbs, Cougar Matt DiGiovanni used a figure-four of the head and an arm bar to subdue Raider Jawan Gaines in 1:31. Next, he pinned Dan Walsh (R) in 1:11. In

the championship bout, DiGiovanni kept right after Bear Nick Lospinoso, scored an escape and a takedown to claim a 3-0 victory.

“The past two years, I lost in the finals, and there was nothing about that that I wanted to do again. I just took my drive from the counties where I placed third. I knew I had to wrestle my match,” DiGiovanni said.

Blue Devil Christian Barber, seeded second at 140 lbs, tallied three takedowns before pinning Nick Twerdak (R) with an arm bar, head smother in 1:56. He received a forfeit to advance to the title bout with Bear Ries, who had defeated twice this season in very tight bouts.

“I feel confident. Right now, I have nothing to lose. I came close those last two times. It’s important to me to get another district title,” Barber said. “I’ve been working in practice with what I need to do.”

In his third bout with Ries, Barber grabbed a 3-2 lead and it appeared that he was on his way to claim his third district title, but Ries pulled out a takedown with less than 10 seconds remaining to win, 4-3.

Raider Mike Steinfeld scored a third-period reversal to defeat Cougar Eric Knight, 4-2, in his opening 140-lb bout. He then qualified for the Region 3 Tournament after receiving a forfeit.

Blue Devil Brian Henry pulled off a deceptive lateral drop to pin George Travinsky (E) in 3:49 at 145 lbs, but in the semis, he dropped a heart-breaker to Diego Chavez (R). Raider Josh Foote took a step in the right direction with a pair of smooth duck-under takedowns to defeat Cougar Connor Londregan, 5-1, at 145 lbs. In a battle for third place, Henry scored a trip takedown and later clamped

Foote in a double arm bar to record a 5-0 victory.

“I had to get my head back into it, because it’s my senior year and I didn’t want to end it here at district,” Henry said. “I got the double arm bar in, and he couldn’t get out of it. It was my time to rest and his time to use up all of his energy. If I didn’t get the pin, I knew I could win in the next period, because he used up all his energy.”

At 152 lbs, Cougar JP Christiano recorded a throw-by and a double-leg takedown, and a nearfall to defeat Blue Devil Ellis Opoku, 7-0. Christiano defeated Danny Castro (R), 11-6, to reach the finals where he dropped a 5-2 decision to Bear John Balboni.

Seeded second at 171 lbs, Blue Devil Bill Kim head-smothered Justin Conception (R) in 48 seconds. In the semis, he lost 6-4 in overtime to Bear Anthony Tancs, but he rebounded with a fury in his bout with Bob Clark (L) to record a 12-2, majority decision.

“I was disappointed with my second match, so I had to come back. In the semifinal, I wasn’t aggressive on my feet. I was hoping to change that in this match. Third period, I just broke the kid, threw a cradle in. I’m glad I came back,” Kim said.

At 189 lbs, Cougar Errol Petgrave pulled off a nice standing Gramby roll to come around and pin Blue Devil Luke Gibbons in 4:16. In the semis, he had a battle with Nick Curra (L) but pulled out an 11-8 decision to

reach the finals.

“I thought that I was able to do it. I didn’t give up. I kept going,” Petgrave explained.

Petgrave nearly pulled off the biggest upset in District 11 history when he slammed Bear Khusen Taramov, ranked seventh in the state, to his back. Taramov came back to eke out a 13-11 victory.

Raider Andrew Jacobs recorded three quick takedowns en route to a 10-5 decision over Jeremy Portillo (E) at 215 lbs. After losing his second bout, Jacobs scored five takedowns and a nearfall to place third with a 12-

3, majority decision over Bear Greg Rice.

“He liked to lead a lot, so I capitalized on that. When he exposed that hip, I just spun around that way,” Jacobs explained.

Looking towards the Region 3 tournament, he added, “It’s going to be a lot tougher, but we are going to get some good practices in, so I should be prepared for it.”

Cougar Julian Campo pinned Rice with a cradle in 2:34 to advance to the championship to face Urayoan Garcia (R).

“I love it! If people don’t know

when it is coming, I pin them with it,” explained Campo, who added, “He [Garcia] is my biggest competition so far. I love wrestling him, because it’s always going to be a good match. I can’t wait! It’s the biggest match of the year. I have been waiting for it all year, ever since last year.”

It was a good bout indeed. Campo jumped to a 6-0 lead, using his patented cradle, but Garcia fought back. Eventually, Campo prevailed, 10-6.

“Oh my God! It was a good match,” said Campo who won his second district title. “We go back-and-forth. It’s always good competition with Garcia.”

Top-seeded Cougar heavyweight Joe Brady received a bye before eventually pinning Raider freshman Anthony Tufaro in 3:52.

“Anthony wrestled him in a quad at Piscataway, and he went to the third period with him. Anthony is a tough kid to wrestle. He came out the back door, got a reversal on him. He loves wrestling. He’s tough and he learns.” Raider Head Coach John Scholz said.

Earlier, Tufaro pinned Carlos Cardenas (E) in 4:39 with an under half and a body press.

In the finals, Brady recorded a reversal to a nearfall, a devastating double-leg tackle takedown and another takedown to beat Rahway’s Laziek Jones, 8-2.

“Everyone put their heart out on the mat. It’s a tough six minutes, and anything can happen in six minutes,” Brady said. “For me, everything went well. The semifinal was a little tougher than I thought it would be against the Scotch Plains kid [Tufaro]. The final, I knew if I wrestled six minutes, I would win. Regions is just around the corner, so hopefully everything will go well there too.”

### CHAMPIONSHIP BOUTS:

152: — Balboni d Christiano, 5-2  
160: — Dillon Gorgehegan (B) md Travis Foster (L), 10-2  
171: — Maurice McCullers (E) md Tancs, 19-9  
189: — Taramov d Petgrave, 13-11  
215: Campo d Garcia, 10-6  
Hwt: — Brady d Jones, 8-2  
103: — Kalimtzis p Sheehy, 1:51  
112: — Giaccio ft Madonia, 16-1, 5:59  
119: — Anthony Rice (B) d Jabari Shults (R), 6-1  
125: — Bundy d Skibitsky, 3-1  
130: — Markovitch d Phillips, 6-4, OT  
135: — DiGiovanni d Lospinoso, 3-0  
140: — Ries d Barber, 4-3  
145: — Devin Geoghegan (B) d Chavez, 5-2

### THIRD PLACE:

103: — Dylan Oliva (B) md Cimafonte, 10-1  
112: — Tibere d Delwin Gabriel (N), 4-3  
119: — Adrian Betancourt (L) ft Ian Henry (C), 17-2, 5:56  
125: — Buontempo d Stadler, 13-8  
130: — Justin Becker (R) p Cannon, 3:43  
135: — Dondre Floyd (E) d Walsh, 12-7  
140: — Steinfeld won forfeit  
145: — Henry d Foote, 5-0  
152: — Brian Pyrus (R) d Castro, 6-3  
160: — JT Disney (P) p Chris Keim (C), 2:56  
171: — Kim md Clark, 12-2  
189: — Curra p Musa Kellah (N), 5:23  
215: — Jacobs md Rice, 12-3  
Hwt: — Austin Frank (L) p Tufaro, 3:01

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS COUNTY OF UNION

**TAKE NOTICE** That pursuant to Resolution No. 164-09, adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains on December 15, 2009 that the undersigned will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly “as is” condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose. Minimum bid for each vehicle will be all towing and storage fees due to the towing agency.  
Purchase must be made by cash or certified check. A 10% deposit must be given at time of auction. Balance must be paid by 4:00 p.m. the same day.

The public auction shall be held on January 14, 2010 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

The following vehicles may be examined at Sevell’s Auto Body, 320 Windsor Place, Westfield, New Jersey at 10:15 am. Public Auction will commence at 10:30 am.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
Ford	1998	2FMZA5148WBC47790	\$4620.00
Barbra Riepe, Township Clerk			
Fee: \$39.78			

1 T - 2/25/10, The Times

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF IN REM FORECLOSURE OF TAX LIEN TITLES SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, UNION COUNTY, CHANCERY DIVISION DOCKET NO. F-63928-09

**THE BOROUGH OF KENILWORTH, A Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey**  
TAKE NOTICE that an action In Rem has been commenced in the Superior Court of New Jersey, by the filing of a complaint on December 8, 2009, to foreclose and forever bar any and all rights of redemption of the parcels of land described in the Tax Foreclosure List below from plaintiff’s tax lien titles.

- The action is brought against the land only, and no personal judgment may be entered.
- Any person desiring to protect a right, title or interest in the described land and/or any parcel thereof by redemption or to contest plaintiff’s right to foreclose, must do so by paying the amount required to redeem as set forth below, plus interest to the date of redemption, and such costs as the court may allow, prior to the entry of judgment therein, or by filing an answer to the complaint setting forth the defendant’s defense, within forty-five (45) days after the date of publication of this notice.
- In the event of failure to redeem or answer by any person having the right to redeem or answer, such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all his right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcels of land described in the following tax foreclosure list.
- Following is a copy of the tax foreclosure list showing the lands against which this action is brought.

Description of Land As it appears on Tax Schedule Duplicate and Certificate	Certificate No.	Date of Tax Sale	Date of Recording Book and Page	Amount of tax liens accruing subsequent to tax sale, interest and costs		Amount Required to Redeem as of 12/15/09	Name of Owner appears on last Tax Duplicate	Estimated amount to redeem as of 1/31/2010
				Amount of Sale	\$	Amount		
1 67 So. 19th Street Block 113 Lot 32	69-3	9/28/1983	5/22/2008 M12496/0475	\$ 435.70	\$	7,431.30	Unknown	\$ 8,201.02

Nancy L. Nichols, Tax Collector of the Borough of Kenilworth, Union County, State of New Jersey, I hereby certify that the foregoing schedule of tax sale certificates are eligible for foreclosure.

NOTE: THE AMOUNT TO REDEEM CHANGES DAILY. PLEASE CONTACT THE TAX COLLECTOR’S OFFICE AT (908) 276-6272 FOR THE EXACT AMOUNT TO REDEEM.

KEITH A. BONCHI, ESQUIRE  
GOLDENBERG, MACKLER, SAYEGH, MINTZ, PFEFFER, BONCHI & GILL

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
660 New Road, Suite 1A

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Fee: \$95.88

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### Open House, Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 1-4PM



### 245 Throwbridge Drive, Scotch Plains \$790,000

Located in Heather Glen, a 55+ community w/clubhouse & outdoor pool, this home is situated conveniently close to downtown Westfield. This exquisite 3 year, 3000 sq. ft. home features 4 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths and is decorated to the nines! With \$98,000 of upgrades, which include a gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, top of the line stainless steel appliances, wine cooler, and glass tiled backsplash, which opens to a wonderful family room, perfect for entertaining with cathedral ceilings and a wood-burning fireplace. A large first floor Master bedroom has wonderful closet space with wood built-ins and beautiful Master bath. A living room, dining room, powder room and laundry room complete the first floor. The second floor features 3 more bedrooms, bath with open loft space. The finished basement is being utilized as an exercise room with plenty of additional storage space. This home is situated on a prime private lot. DIR: Prospect Street to Madison Ave. at bend, left onto Fanwood Ave. into Heather Glen Community to Throwbridge Drive.

### COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

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## Raider Swim Boys Win Public B Section, Girls Fall

Juniors Dan and Mike Napolitano each won a pair of individual events and figured into all three winning relays to lead the no. 6 Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys swim team to the North Jersey, Section 2 Public B title with a 95-75 victory over 14th ranked Summit in Perth Amboy on February 19. The 18th ranked Raider girls fell short to no. 13 Chatham, 88-82.

The 12-1 Raider boys' last sectional title came in 2003, but after Mike Henkels, Greg Baliko, Mike Napolitano and Joe Dunn touched first in the 200-medley relay with a time of 1:43.84, Dan Napolitano won the next event, the 200-freestyle, in 1:50.21, they were well on their way to glory. Baliko won the 200-individual medley in 2:06.79 then Mike Napolitano won the 50-free and the 100-fly with

respective times of 23.29 and 54.78.

Dunn touched first in the 100-free in 51.71 then Baliko, Mike Rizzo, Dan Napolitano and Dunn won the 200-free relay in 1:35.01. Summit's Kirby Voightman won the 100-backstroke at 56.39 and Kevin Ng won the 100-breaststroke at 1:04.03. Both Napolitanos, Henkels and Ryan Gajdzisz teamed to win the 400-free relay in 3:32.29.

The 12-2 Raider girls won two individual events and two relays against the Lady Cougars. Ana Bogdanovski touched first in the 50-free at 25.4 and the 100-free at 54.61. Bogdanovski, Hannah Markey, Steph Baliko and Kelsey Rossi won the 200-free relay in 1:45.29. Bogdanovski, Becca Dunn, Jodie Thompson and Caitlin English won the 400-free relay with a time of 3:47.2.

## FSPY Swim 8Us Compete In YMCA Championships

The 8-and-Under (8U) swimmers from the Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" (FSPY) competed against 28 "Y" teams from all across New Jersey at the recent YMCA 8U State Championships. Each of FSPY's 20 swimmers posted a best time during the meet. The three eight-year-old boys, Kieran Scanlon, Logan D'Amore and Christopher McArdle, posted best times in every one of their races.

A number of top-10 finishes were also achieved. Eight-year-old Lauren Davidson was third in the 25-yard backstroke and fifth in the 50-freestyle. Seven-year-old Martha Lewand was seventh in the 25-butterfly and ninth in the 25-free, while six-year-old Abigail Ryan touched ninth in the 25-breaststroke and 25-butterfly.

In the relays, the 8U freestyle relay team of Rachel DiFabrizio, Sophia Iacona, Hannah Crisafulli and Davidson placed 13th, and the team of Colette Franciscus, Caroline Trevino, Sofia Frias and Lucy Zhang placed 25th. The seven-year-old team of Masha Volski, Sarah Arber, Grace Cull and Lewand placed eighth.

Helping these young members of the Piranhas swim team reach their best, Head age-group Coach Gillian Hauptman summed up this season's

effort, "Each of these young swimmers worked very hard this year, and now this is a strong and versatile group. Every one of them can compete in all four strokes. We're very proud of their accomplishments," she said.

### Blue Devil Boys Break WHS Record in 4x400

The Westfield High School (WHS) boys 4x400-meter team broke a WHS record with a time of 3:26.12 at the Eastern States Championships at the New Balance Track and Field Center in New York City.

Jon Henry had a 49.5 split, followed by Zach Helfand at 52.8, Kevin Ramos at 52.7 and Jhaksey Williams at 50.7. The old WHS record of 3:26.9 was set in 2002 by Richard Miller, Earl Lambert, Alexis Gonzalez and Diano Reavis.

The boys distance medley relay team tied for eighth in 10:32.73. It was the fastest indoors or outdoors by a WHS team since 1997. The splits were: Mike Kelley at 3:15.6, Jon Henry at 49.8, Tyler Cusick at 2:01.5 and Ryan Scrudato at 4:25.6. Both of Henry's times were the two fastest ever run by a Blue Devil in indoor track.



**HOCKEY CHAMPS...**On February 21, the Cranford Hockey Club Mite Blue Team won the Central Mass. Winter Classic Tournament outside Boston, Mass. The team won all four contests. The team also finished third in the NJYHL Silver division. Members from Westfield or Garwood are: Joe Beatty, Christopher Duffy, Tommy Duffy, Alex Kuhlthik, Nick Manganello, Paul Romeo, Timmy Rosa, Trevor Tanella and Gavin Tanji. Cranford residents include Nick Canfora, Ryan Echavarria and Will Robinson. The team is coached by Westfield residents Ken Tanji (head coach), Dan Duffy and Joe Rosa.

## Blue Devils Reach Semifinals In UC Ice Hockey Tourney

The Westfield Blue Devils varsity hockey team earned a berth in the semifinals of the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference championship tournament by humbling Springfield's Jonathan Dayton Bulldogs, 8-1, in quarterfinal play on February 22 at Warinanco Arena in Roselle.

Senior forward Matt Wronski paced the Blue Devils' attack with two goals and two assists, while junior Henry O'Brien chipped in with two goals and Zander Maslow, Dylan Moran, Nick Attanasio and Sam Meyer added single goals.

Westfield jumped to a 3-0 lead early in the second period before Dayton's Jake Kozlenko spoiled junior goaltender Morgan Bungerz's shut-out bid with a power play goal at 9:11 of the middle frame. Just under five minutes later, O'Brien notched his first goal on passes from Attanasio and Wronski to re-establish Westfield's three-goal lead heading into the final period. Westfield capped the game with four unanswered goals in the third period en route to the win.

The victory over Dayton propelled Westfield to a semifinal match-up with the defending Union County champion A.L. Johnson Crusaders of Clark held on February 24 at Warinanco Arena. The winner will face the winner of the Summit Hilltoppers and the Cranford Cougars game for the Union County championship on February 25 at Warinanco Arena.

Previously, Summit claimed first place in Union County League play on the strength of a 2-0 victory over Westfield in the final game of the regular season for both teams. Summit goaltender Jackson Stuckey turned in a standout performance, turning aside 29 shots. Trevor Silverstein scored the eventual game-winning goal at 7:41 of the opening period and Timmy Yaeger added an empty net goal with 38 seconds re-

maining to seal the victory.

The Blue Devils handed Dayton a 5-1 loss on February 15 behind a two-goal performance by Attanasio. Maslow staked Westfield to a 1-0 lead in the first period after converting passes from junior Colin Fitzhenry and freshman Ryan Morse. Morse added a goal in the middle period between Attanasio's two markers before O'Brien rounded out the scoring in the third period on a pass from CJ Meyer. Maslow, O'Brien and sophomore Matt Lee each contributed an assist in the win.

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**FAST BREAK CHAMPS...**The Westfield sixth grade Blue won the Wayne PAL Fast Break Basketball Tournament, held over the President's Weekend, by defeating a team from St. John's Hillsdale, as well as a group from St. Augustine, New City, N.Y. Pictured, left to right, are: first row, Chris Rinaldi, Billy Fitzpatrick, Tyler Roth and Nick Mele; second row, Coaches Mark Cleere and Matt McLlroy, Coach Gary Roth, Hoop Group Scholarship winner Owen Murray, Coach Daniel Murray, Andrejs Rumpeters, Justin Lin, Parker Hess, Coach Dave Hess, Mitchell Bryk and Team Administrator Linus Lin.

### VENEZIA NETS 28, LORENTZEN WINS IT

## Lady Blue Devils Upset Summit in UCT, 47-45

Since losing to Cranford on January 12, the Westfield High School girls basketball team have won 10 of 11 games, with the only loss being a buzzer-beater to Summit. The seventh-seeded Lady Blue Devils got even at the right time when they upset the second-seeded Hilltoppers, 47-45, in the quarterfinals of the Union County Tournament on February 18.

Junior forward Katie Ponce drove toward the basket and shoveled a pass out to Charlotte Lorentzen, who sank a jumper with seconds remaining for the game winner. Lorentzen finished with six rebounds, an assist, a steal and the two game-winning points. Ponce finished with four points, four rebounds, four steals and two assists.

The 13-7 Blue Devils appeared to have a comfortable 33-21 lead entering the fourth quarter, but the 18-3 Hilltoppers battled back in a big way to take a 41-39 lead with a minute remaining. Emily Cristaldi (three 3-pointers) bucketed 13 of her team-high 19 points in the quarter. Senior guard Amanda Markowski drove for a layup to knot the score then hit a pair of free throws to give Westfield a 43-41 lead. With 12 seconds left,

### Terrill/Park Matmen Win One, Lose One

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Terrill/Park Middle School wrestling team defeated Cranford, 28-16, on February 17 but dropped its match to Roselle Park, 25-18, for a 14-1 record.

Against Cranford, Raider Tyler Kovacs won a 9-0 majority decision over Andrew Tompkins, Dominic Natale pinned Cory Birch in 12 seconds, Matt Ridge pinned Dave Ayala in 1:42, Alex Mirabella pinned Nick Ballas in 1:26 and Sam McQuoid pinned Rob DelSancho in 55 seconds. Tommy Cunningham dropped a tough, 1-0 bout to Dave Bush and Brian Lapham was edged, 2-0, by Conor Burkert.

Against Roselle Park, Cunningham pinned Joe DeVito in 2:06, Mike Lettieri pinned Alan Nunez in 2:07, Lapham decisioned Kevin Angus, 4-0, and Natale decisioned Peter Hillburn, 1-0.

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## Devils Silence Cougars, 43-26; Coach Marino Gets 100th Win

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Milestones marked the Westfield High School girls stunning, 43-26, victory over the Cranford Cougars on February 16 in Cranford. First, senior forward Diana Venezia scored a career-high 31 points, which led to the second milestone of coach Joe Marino receiving his 100th victory as Blue Devil head coach.

However Venezia was not finished. With 17 rebounds, she also tied her career high, while adding two blocks and two steals. Her offensive production consisted of three 3-pointers, eight buckets from 2-point range and six of seven free throws.

"We knew coming in that it would be coach's 100th win. We all wanted to come out and play hard. We came out with a shaky start, but after we settled down, I thought we played good team basketball," Venezia said.

"She is a very good player," Cougar Head Coach Jackie Huber said. "I have seen her play since she was a freshman, and I knew she was going to be good. It just shows how she has blossomed as a player."

"Thirty-one points! She went crazy," coach Marino said. "The girls were ready to play today. We lost to them the last time, and we played well. We started off a little flat, but then as the time went on, we made things happen. They (Cranford) are a well-coached team."

The 15-6 Cougars had beaten the Blue Devils, 48-40, on January 12. At the time, the Blue Devils were struggling with a 2-6 record. Since then, the Blue Devils have reeled off 10 victories in 11 games. Their only loss

was to the Summit Hilltoppers, who stung them at the buzzer to win, 44-42. Interestingly, the Blue Devils' next game would be in the Union County Tournament (UCT) on February 18, so their hot streak has come at the right time.

"Exactly! We lost at the buzzer. It hit us hard. Now, we are ready to play them," Venezia said. "We just want to keep it going. Union County Tournament! That's what we have always been looking forward to, and I feel confident that our team can do it."

Foul trouble early on, especially to senior guard Jamie Webb, spelled the Cougars' demise. The Cougars did win the first quarter, 8-5, but the Blue Devils began driving to the basket in the second quarter and successfully drew fouls, which included a technical foul. Six of the Blue Devils' 12 points in the quarter came via free throws.

"That's what we started to do. We were playing on the perimeter in the beginning then what we just started to do was drive to create it, because we knew that they were not going to be able to stay with Katie (Ponce) and Amanda (Markowski)," coach Marino explained.

"I would have to say [it was] because we were tired. Yesterday, we were down by 10. We came back and ended up winning by seven. We gave all of our energy out on that," coach Huber said.

Just the day before in the UCT opening round, the Blue Devils had defeated Governor Livingston, 49-

41, in a 6 p.m. game and the Cougars defeated Union, 50-43, in a later game. Coach Huber felt that those games and the fact that Cranford had school on the day of their game with Westfield could have been a contributing factor.

"They didn't have school today, so they got to rest all day. They played at 6:00 yesterday, got home a little early, so they had fresh legs. Our girls were going all day long, so that was a disadvantage to us," she said.

Venezia stepped up her offense even more in the second half by scoring eight points in the third quarter and another 12 in the fourth, but her positioning under the boards for rebounds was nearly perfect throughout.

"A lot of it has to do with finding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



REACHING FOR THE SECOND LEG...Cougar Kyle Markovitch attempts to get a takedown near the edge of the circle in his 130-lb championship bout with Brearley's Allen Phillips. Markovitch recorded a takedown in overtime to win, 6-4, and to claim his third District 11 crown.

### BRADY, CAMPO, DiGIOVANNI, MARKOVITCH, GIACCO CAPTURE TITLES

## Cranford Cougars Send 8 to Region 3, Place 2nd in District 11 Mat Tourney

By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Excitement and plenty of very tight bouts saturated the semifinal and championship rounds of the District 11 Wrestling Tournament in Westfield on February 20. In the end, top-10 ranked David Brearley (Bears) won the team title with a total of 211.5 and claimed six individual titles, including the Outstanding Wrestler Award (Dan Ries – 140 lbs).

The Cranford (C) Cougars placed second with 156 points and claimed five champions. Rahway (R) placed third at 108, Linden (L) was fourth at 92, Westfield was fifth at 77, Scotch Plains-Fanwood took sixth at 65.5, followed by Elizabeth (E) at 46, Newark Central at 12 and Union Catholic at four points.

Blue Devil Mike Kalimtzis drew the top seed at 103 lbs and pinned Raider Lucas Cimafonte with a double arm bar in 55 seconds to advance to the finals to face Josh Sheehy (L).

"I have seen him wrestle before. I saw that his takedown is good, but I am going to wrestle my match and keep my defense going," Kalimtzis said.

Kalimtzis went to work immediately on Sheehy with a takedown before pinning him with a half nelson in 1:51 to claim the title.

"I saw an opening on a single, so I took it. I kept the pressure on him and made sure I wrestled my match," Kalimtzis said.

Previously, Cimafonte scored a takedown in overtime to grab a 2-0 decision over Keith McCarthy (R).

Cougar Joe Giaccio used a series of pipe wrench and two-on-one tilts to claim a 16-0, 3:12, technical fall in his opening 112-lb bout. Next, he pinned Dan Tibere (L) with a figure four of the head in 1:42.

"I took him down right away," Giaccio said. "He seemed easy to bar, and I figure-foured that [head] and got the quick pin. I am ready for the finals. I'm ready to win."

Giaccio was to face Bear Anthony Madonia, whom he pinned in 38 seconds for the county title.

"A lot of people may have thought

it was a fluke, but I am looking to do the same thing this time. I think I will," Giaccio said.

This time, Giaccio punished Madonia to record a 16-1, 5:59, technical fall for his third District 11 title.

Top-seeded Raider Tristan Bundy received a bye at 125 lbs, before recording a 16-1, 5:41, tech fall over Ralph Stadler (E) in the semis. On the other side of the 125-lb bracket, Blue Devil Troy Skibitsky recorded a pair of takedowns and a reversal before pinning Quinton Anderson (R) in 3:08 with a smothering half nelson. In the semis, Skibitsky scored a reversal and punished Cougar Brian Buontempo with some strong top control to grab a 2-1 win and advance to the finals to face Bundy.

"I knew he was a strong kid. I would go to that half [nelson], but I couldn't turn him. Second period, I got a reversal. Third period, my conditioning is really what helped me win that match. We condition harder than any other team, and that paid off. I rode him the entire third period pretty much," Skibitsky said.

"Troy was aggressive on top. I think that's where he won the match. He wore the kid down," said Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz. "I thought Troy wrestled a good match and he is in good shape for the finals. I hope he opens up a little bit more on his feet."

Looking toward his bout with Bundy, Skibitsky said, "He's a good wrestler. I'm just going to go out there and work what I practice every day. Hopefully, it will all go well for me."

Bundy and Skibitsky had a tight championship bout. Bundy recorded a double-leg trip takedown and an escape to grab a 3-1 victory.

"At this point in the season, I want to be wrestling my best. The whole

point of the wrestling season is to get ready for this weekend, the individual weekends," Bundy said. "Basically, everybody comes to this with a zero-zero record. The most important thing is to win here to get to the states. I'm going to go out there, stick to my game plan, work my takedowns and do what I do best to come out with a win."

Cougar Kyle Markovitch (130 lbs) pinned Blue Devil Keith Peterson in 1:20 with a half nelson and arm clamp, then he decided Raider Sean Cannon, 4-0, to advance to the title bout with Bear Allen Phillips. Markovitch came on strong with a step-over takedown to a two-point nearfall, but as the bout wore on, a series of warnings that resulted in penalty points for Phillips created much confusion. The scoreboard showed Markovitch winning 4-3, but after a long discussion, it was ruled a 4-4 tie, sending the bout to overtime where he took care of business with a takedown.

"I thought I won, and I was having a cup of water and wasn't thinking about it. I gave up some pretty stupid points," said Markovitch, who claimed his third district title. "When they told me, I had to keep my head straight. I had to go out there and wrestle tough again, get that takedown and win the match."

Seeded second at 135 lbs, Cougar Matt DiGiovanni used a figure-four of the head and an arm bar to subdue Raider Jawan Gaines in 1:31. Next, he pinned Dan Walsh (R) in 1:11. In the championship bout, DiGiovanni kept right after Bear Nick Lospinoso, scored an escape and a takedown to claim a 3-0 victory.

"The past two years, I lost in the finals, and there was nothing about that that I wanted to do again. I just

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



JOSTLING FOR CONTROL OF THE BALL...Cougar guard Jess McCoy, right, and Blue Devil guard Amanda Markowski struggle for control of the basketball during the game with Westfield in Cranford on February 16. The Lady Blue Devils avenged an earlier, 46-40 loss to the Cougars by winning, 43-26.

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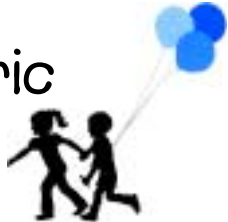
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ATTEMPTING TO DRIBBLE AROUND AN INDIAN...Cougar Greg Goode, left, attempts to slip past an Indian defender in the Union County Tournament game with Rahway at Roselle Catholic on February 17.

SEAN TROTTER SCORES A CAREER-HIGH 22 POINTS

# Indians Burn Cougars, 51-49, In Union County Tournament

Prepared By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Cranford Cougar junior point guard Sean Trotter scored a career-high 22 points, but his achievement was overshadowed in the final five seconds when Kazim Smith snatched a Cougar in-bound pass and rolled in the lay-up to give the 11th-seeded Rahway High School boys basketball team a stinging, 51-49, victory in the opening round of the Union County Tournament at Roselle Catholic High School on February 17.

Even more of a burn, the sixth-

seeded Cougars held a seemingly comfortable, 42-31 lead with 4:12 remaining, but the 11-9 Indians' hounding defense paid off and created numerous steals, several leading to lay-ups. The Indians' chief thieves were Giovanni Smith (11 points) and Hakeem Kornegay, who finished with 20 points, which included two straight steals converted to lay-ups and a free throw that made the score, 44-42 with 23 seconds left.

Trotter scored nine points, including two of his 3-pointers, in the first quarter as the 12-7 Cougars sprinted

to an 18-9 lead. Trotter, who was 9-12 from the line, sank eight of them in the second half.

The Cougars had a 20-11 lead early in the second quarter then their shooting turned to ice, and the Indians ran off five straight points until senior Will Green, off a feed from Chris Gross, made the score, 22-16. The half ended with the Cougars in front, 24-18. Green finished with 11 points – four of eight from the field and 5-for-7 from the line – seven rebounds, a steal and a block. Gross finished with 11 points, including a 3-pointer, a team-leading 13 rebounds (6 offensive), five blocks, an assist and a steal.

Kornegay sank the first two points of the second half then Gross answered with a lay-up. Kornegay banged a 3-pointer. Trotter bucketed five of seven free throws, but Giovanni Smith hit a jumper, then added another jumper with six seconds remaining in the quarter to narrow the score to 31-29.

Early in the fourth quarter, Green hit for two and senior Nick Pace (5 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, block, steal) set up Trotter for his third 3-pointer to make the score, 36-29. After Kornegay made a steal and rolled in a lay-up, Cougar senior guard Kendall Grier (3 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 assists, block) fed Trotter for two. Pace followed with a theft and passed to Green, who rolled in a lay-up. Next, Green was fouled and sank both free throws to make the score, 42-31.

But the meltdown began as the Indians howled with a 9-2 run before Trotter sank a pair of free throws. After the Indians scored two points, Gross scored on a put back but Rahway answered with two, making the score 48-46 with 27 seconds left. Trotter was fouled and made one of his two free throws with 23 seconds on the clock. Kazim Smith hit a 3-pointer to tie the score then grabbed the deflection that led to his game-winning lay-up.

Cougar Greg Goode finished with five rebounds, a steal and an assist. Junior Joey Papandrea had a steal and a rebound, and Bryan Fitzsimmons added two rebounds and two assists.

Rahway	9	9	11	22	51
Cranford	18	6	7	18	49

# Cougar Englese Wins 400 Meters At Group 2 Indoor Track Meet

Prepared By DAVID B. CORBIN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

The Cranford High School boys and girls indoor track teams qualified three individual boys and the boys 4x400-meter team for the NJSIAA Group meet which was held in Toms River this past weekend. The Cougar girls qualified seven individuals and the 4x400.

"It was our best indoor showing at the Group meet since I've been at Cranford," Cougar Head Coach Pete Kane said.

At the sectional meet, sophomore Mike Zanfardino crossed sixth in the 1,600 meters with a time of 4:45. Junior Mike Cassidy finished fourth in the 3,200 at 10:22 and senior Jeff Sun placed fourth in the 800 at 2:03. Sophomore Chris Witwick, senior Tyler Ainge, junior Dan Cleary and Sun took fifth in the 4x400 at 3:43.

Junior Natalie Englese took top honors in the 400 with a time of 57.49 and fifth in the 55-meter dash at 7.79. Junior Bridget Miller took third in the 3,200 meters with a time of 11:44 and sophomore Megan Byrnes placed fifth at 11:51. Senior Kelly Burke took third in the high jump with a height of 4'10" and third in the 55-hurdles at 8.86. Sophomore Gillian Burke crossed sixth in the 400 at 64.0 and the 4x400 team of Kelly Burke, sophomore Kate Evans, Gillian Burke and Englese crossed first in 4:16.

According to coach Kane, "Natalie was battling with a stomach virus all week. She got it on Saturday at the state sectionals and fought it off during the meet. She couldn't warm up after the 400. She was turning greenish but would not scratch from any event. She placed in the 55-dash and then anchored the 4x400 team just so they could advance. The great part about our girls is how competitive they are and how much they care

about one another."

Kane continued, "The leadoff three girls had to put Natalie in a position so that she could hold on and advance them to the top-6 to the Group 2 Meet. The leadoff three put the team in second place and handed off to Natalie right behind Rahway. Natalie could have sat there behind Rahway and cruised to second, but she is too competitive. Rahway has beaten us several times this year and she wasn't going to let it happen again. With 150 meters to go, she kicked it in to the next gear to blow past Nichelle Harris and secure a state sectional victory. After crossing the finish line she collapsed in tears and was holding her stomach. It was an unbelievable moment to see her teammates pick her up and carry her back to our team and get her water. Our coaching staff was so proud of all four girls and im-

pressed with Natalie's toughness."

More big news, however, occurred at the Group 2 Meet when Englese won the 400 in 59.28, after being out of school three days with the stomach virus. Kelly Burke placed third in the 55-hurdles and advanced to the Meet of Champions.

Coach Kane also noted that Bridget Miller has been tearing up the track in workouts and meets this season. Miller had a huge breakthrough last spring when she placed in the sectionals to help the Cougars win. Her 3,200 performance was a pivotal point in that meet. She is the girls' distance leader and helps make everyone around her better.

"Coach Galen Johnson and Miller have worked very well together, and we are all excited for the entire distance team to give us great balance this spring," Coach Kane said.

## Cougar Snacks:

### Cougar Icemen Edge GL Highlanders, 2-1

The Cranford Cougar High School icemen edged the Governor Livingston Highlanders, 2-1, when Billy Davitt took a pass from Gary Merwede and flicked in a goal in overtime in the quarterfinal round of the Union County Cup tournament at Warinanco Rink in Roselle on February 22.

The 11-9-4 Highlanders took a 1-0 lead when Nick Sousa netted a goal in the first period. Eric Pawlick came right back with a goal to knot the score for the 12-9-2 Cougars. Cranford goalie Mike Williams made 33 saves.

Gov. Livingston	1	0	0	0	1
Cranford	1	0	0	1	2

### Probitas Verus Honos

### Lady Cougars Derail Royals in UCT, 57-44

The fourth-seeded Cranford Cougar girls basketball team got off to a great start and cruised to a 57-44 victory over the fifth-seeded Oak Knoll Royals in the quarterfinals of the Union County Tournament in Rahway on February 18.

Sophomore Morgan Miller, who sank four 3-pointers, led the 16-6 Cougars with 14 points. Senior Jamie Webb hit a 3-pointer and finished with 11 points, while senior Taylor D'Antico buried a 3-pointer and finished with 10 points. Jess McCoy bagged a 3-pointer and finished with nine points. Danielle Gross had eight points. Jenna Goeller had three points and Katie McGovern had two.

The Cougars were to face top-seeded Roselle Catholic in the semifinals on February 23.

Oak Knoll	6	10	11	17	44
Cranford	17	15	12	13	57

### Highlander Boys Edge Cougar Cagers, 40-38

The Governor Livingston High School boys basketball team came from behind in the fourth quarter to defeat the Cranford Cougars, 40-38, in Berkeley Heights on February 19. Logan Kelley sank nine of his 13 points in the final quarter for the 12-8 Highlanders.

Cougar senior center Will Green was unable to play due to a sprained ankle suffered in the Union County game against Rahway. Sophomore Chris Gross led the 12-8 Cougars with 15 points, hitting 6-for-16 from the field and 3-for-4 from the line. He also had three rebounds and a steal. Junior Sean Trotter, who nailed three 3-pointers, finished with 12 points, four rebounds (3 offensive), two assists and a career-high three blocks.

Senior guard Kendall Grier bucketed eight points, 3-for-7 from the field, including a 3-pointer, and 1-for-3 from the line. He also had two rebounds, an assist and a steal. Senior Nick Pace had two points, three rebounds and four assists. Bryan Fitzsimmons pulled a career-high, five rebounds (1 offensive) and added two steals and a block.

Cranford	10	7	11	10	38
Gov. Livingston	4	9	10	17	40



LOOKING FOR AN OPEN TEAMMATE...Cougar senior guard Kendall Grier, No. 24, looks for an opening in the Union County Tournament game against Rahway. Rahway bucketed five points in the final 20 seconds to win, 51-49



## Dental Update

by Kenneth W. Arida, D.D.S.  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

**GOOD ORAL HEALTH PROMOTES CLEAR THINKING**

There is already research that links gum disease with heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and Alzheimer's disease. Now, a recent study suggests that gum disease may also be associated with poorer thinking skills. Researchers found that adults aged 60 and older with the highest levels of the gum disease-causing pathogen Porphyromonas gingivalis were three times more likely to experience trouble recalling a three-word sequence over time than those with lower levels of the pathogen. Adults with the highest levels of the pathogen were also two times more likely to fail three-digit reverse subtraction tests. It is thought that gum disease influences brain function through several mechanisms, including causing body-wide inflammation, a risk factor for loss of mental function.

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See weight class winners on next page

See weight class winners on next page



WORKING OVER HIS OPPONENT...Cougar Joe Brady works over Rahway's Laziek Jones near the end of the mat in his heavyweight title bout. Brady beat Jones, 8-2, to claim his second District 11 Crown.



YANKING HIM BACK INTO A CRADLE...Cougar Julian Campo, right, attempts to rock Rahway's Urayoan Garcia back into a cradle and succeeds in the 215-lb title bout. Campo won, 10-6, to claim his second District 11 crown

Cranford Cougars Send Eight to Region 3, Place Second in District 11 Wrestling Tournament

took my drive from the counties where I placed third. I knew I had to wrestle my match," DiGiovanni said.

Blue Devil Christian Barber, seeded second at 140 lbs, tallied three

what I need to do."

In his third bout with Ries, Barber grabbed a 3-2 lead and it appeared that he was on his way to claim his third district title, but Ries pulled out

in the semis, he dropped a heart-breaker to Diego Chavez (R). Raider Josh Foote took a step in the right direction with a pair of smooth duck-under takedowns to defeat Cougar Connor Londregan, 5-1, at 145 lbs. In a battle for third place, Henry scored a trip takedown and later clamped Foote in a double arm bar to record a 5-0 victory.

"I had to get my head back into it, because it's my senior year and I didn't want to end it here at districts," Henry said. "I got the double arm bar in, and he couldn't get out of it. It was my time to rest and his time to use up all of his energy. If I didn't get the pin, I knew I could win in the next period, because he used up all his energy."

At 152 lbs, Cougar JP Christiano recorded a throw-by and a double-leg

the semifinal, I wasn't aggressive on my feet. I was hoping to change that in this match. Third period, I just broke the kid, threw a cradle in. I'm glad I came back," Kim said.

At 189 lbs, Cougar Errol Petgrave pulled off a nice standing Gramby roll to come around and pin Blue Devil Luke Gibbons in 4:16. In the semis, he had a battle with Nick Correa (L) but pulled out an 11-8 decision to reach the finals.

"I thought that I was able to do it. I didn't give up. I kept going," Petgrave explained.

Petgrave nearly pulled off the biggest upset in District 11 history when he slammed Bear Khusen Taramov, ranked seventh in the state, to his back. Taramov came back to eke out a 13-11 victory.

some good practices in, so I should be prepared for it."

Cougar Julian Campo pinned Greg Rice with a cradle in 2:34 to advance to the championship to face Urayoan Garcia (R).

Raider Head Coach John Scholz said. Earlier Tufaro pinned Carlos Cardenas (E) in 4:39 with an under half and a body press.

In the finals, Brady recorded a reversal to a nearfall, a devastating



WORKING FOR THE REVERSAL...Brearley's Devin Geoghegan, front, works for the reversal in the 145-lb title bout with Rahway's Diego Chavez.

takedowns before pinning Nick Twerdak (R) with an arm bar, head smother in 1:56. He received a forfeit to advance to the title bout with Bear Ries, who had defeated twice this season in very tight bouts.

"I feel confident. Right now, I have nothing to lose. I came close those last two times. It's important to me to get another district title," Barber said. "I've been working in practice with

a takedown with less than 10 seconds remaining to win, 4-3.

Raider Mike Steinfeld scored a third-period reversal to defeat Cougar Eric Knight, 4-2, in his opening 140-lb bout. He then qualified for the Region 3 Tournament after receiving a forfeit.

Blue Devil Brian Henry pulled off a deceptive lateral drop to pin George Travinsky (E) in 3:49 at 145 lbs, but



AVOIDING BACK POINTS...Blue Devil Troy Skibitsky, left, arches before rolling away from Raider Tristan Bundy in the 125-lb championship bout at the District 11 Tournament in Westfield on February 20. Bundy won, 3-1.

takedown, and a nearfall to defeat Blue Devil Ellis Opoku, 7-0. Christiano defeated Danny Castro (R), 11-6, to reach the finals where he dropped a 5-2 decision to Bear John Balboni.

Seeded second at 171 lbs, Blue Devil Bill Kim head-smothered Justin Conception (R) in 48 seconds. In the semis, he lost 6-4 in overtime to Bear Anthony Tancs, but he rebounded with a fury in his bout with Bob Clark (L) to record a 12-2, majority decision.

"I was disappointed with my second match, so I had to come back. In

Raider Andrew Jacobs recorded three quick takedowns en route to a 10-5 decision over Jeremy Portillo (E) at 215 lbs. After losing his second bout, Jacobs scored five takedowns and a nearfall to place third with a 12-3, majority decision over Bear Greg Rice.

"He liked to lead a lot, so I capitalized on that. When he exposed that hip, I just spun around that way," Jacobs explained.

Looking towards the Region 3 tournament, he added, "It's going to be a lot tougher, but we are going to get



MAINTAINING CONTROL ON TOP...Cougar Matt DiGiovanni, top, controls Brearley's Nick Lospinoso in the 135-lb title bout. DiGiovanni won, 3-0

"I love it! If people don't know when it is coming, I pin them with it," explained Campo, who added, "He [Garcia] is my biggest competition so far. I love wrestling him, because it's always going to be a good match. I can't wait! It's the biggest match of the year. I have been waiting for it all year, ever since last year."

It was a good bout indeed. Campo jumped to a 6-0 lead, using his patented cradle, but Garcia fought back. Eventually, Campo prevailed, 10-6.

"Oh my God! It was a good match," said Campo who won his second district title. "We go back-and-forth. It's always good competition with Garcia."

Top-seeded Cougar heavyweight Joe Brady received a bye before eventually pinning Raider freshman Anthony Tufaro in 3:52.

"Anthony wrestled him in a quad at Piscataway, and he went to the third period with him. Anthony is a tough kid to wrestle. He came out the back door, got a reversal on him. He loves wrestling. He's tough and he learns,"

double-leg tackle takedown and another takedown to beat Rahway's Laziek Jones, 8-2.

"Everyone put their heart out on the mat. It's a tough six minutes, and anything can happen in six minutes," Brady said. "For me, everything went well. The semifinal was a little tougher than I thought it would be against the Scotch Plains kid [Tufaro]. The final, I knew if I wrestled six minutes, I would win. Regions is just around the corner, so hopefully everything will go well there too."

**CHAMPIONSHIP BOUTS:**  
152: — Balboni d Christiano, 5-2  
160: — Dillon Gorgehegan (B) md Travis Foster (L), 10-2  
171: — Maurice McCullers (E) md Tancs, 19-9  
189: — Taramov d Petgrave, 13-11  
215: — Campo d Garcia, 10-6  
Hwt: — Brady d Jones, 8-2  
103: — Kalimtzis p Sheehy, 1:51  
112: — Giaccio tf Madonia, 16-1, 5:59  
119: — Anthony Rice (B) d Jabari Shults (R), 6-1  
125: — Bundy d Skibitsky, 3-1  
130: — Markovitch d Phillips, 6-4, OT  
135: — DiGiovanni d Lospinoso, 3-0  
140: — Ries d Barber, 4-3  
145: — Devin Geoghegan (B) d Chavez, 5-2

**THIRD PLACE:**  
103: — Dylan Oliva (B) md Cimafronte, 10-1  
112: — Tibere d Delwin Gabriel (N), 4-3  
119: — Adrian Betancourt (L) tf Ian Henry (C), 17-2, 5:56  
125: — Buontempo d Stadtler, 13-8  
130: — Justin Becker (R) p Cannon, 3:43  
135: — Dondre Floyd (E) d Walsh, 12-7  
140: — Steinfeld won forfeit  
145: — Henry d Foote, 5-0  
152: — Brian Pyrus (R) d Castro, 6-3  
160: — JT Disney (R) p Chris Keim (C), 2:56  
171: — Kim md Clark, 12-2  
189: — Correa p Musa Kellah (N), 5:23  
215: — Jacobs md Rice, 12-3  
Hwt: — Austin Frank (L) p Tufaro, 3:01

D11 Wrestling Coaches Question Referees:

Several, if not all, wrestling coaches at the District 11 Wrestling Tournament were disappointed with a number of the referees' calls. There appeared to be an "incessant" use of questionable warning calls for stalling, in addition to very slow or "no" calls at all for takedowns, reversals and nearfalls.

Several coaches requested that their opinions be known.

Additional District 11 Wrestling Photos:

To view more District 11 Wrestling photos from Dave Corbin, go to [www.goleader.com](http://www.goleader.com) – Click "All Services" on upper right. Then Click "Photos" in upper center. To view additional District 11 photos, **Scroll to – 10feb20-dist-11-wres** For information on high-resolution photos, e-mail: [dcorbin@goleader.com](mailto:dcorbin@goleader.com)



MOST OUTSTANDING ASSISTANT COACH...Rahway's Anthony Garay, left, receives the District 11 "Most Outstanding Assistant Coach Award" from Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
112-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Anthony Madonia (Brearley –2nd), Joe Giaccio (Cranford – 1st), Danny Tibere (Linden – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
119-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Jabari Shults (Rahway –2nd), Anthony Rice (Brearley – 1st), Adian Betancourt (Linden – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
125-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Troy Skibitsky (Westfield –2nd), Tristan Bundy (Scotch Plains-Fanwood – 1st), Brian Buontempo (Cranford – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
130-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Allen Phillips (Brearley –2nd), Kyle Markovitch (Cranford – 1st), Justin Becker (Rahway – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
135-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Nick Lospinoso (Brearley –2nd), Matt DiGiovanni (Cranford – 1st), D'Ondre Floyd (Elizabeth – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
140-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Christian Barber (Westfield –2nd), Danny Ries (Brearley – 1st), Mike Steinfeld (Scotch Plains-Fanwood – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
OUTSTANDING WRESTLER AWARD...Danny Ries (Brearley – 140 lbs) with Westfield Head Coach Glen Kurz



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
145-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Diego Chavez (Rahway –2nd), Devin Geoghegan (Brearley – 1st), Brian Henry (Westfield – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
152-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...JP Christiano (Cranford –2nd), John Balboni (Brearley – 1st), Brian Pyrus (Rahway – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
160-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Travis Foster (Linden –2nd), Dillon Geoghegan (Brearley – 1st), TJ Disney (Rahway – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
171-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Anthony Tanes (Brearley –2nd), Maurice McCullers (Elizabeth – 1st), Bill Kim (Westfield – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
189-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Errol Petgrave (Cranford –2nd), Khusen Taramov (Brearley – 1st), Nick Currea (Linden – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
215-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Urayoan Garcia (Rahway –2nd), Julian Campo (Cranford – 1st), Andrew Jacobs (Scotch Plains-Fanwood – 3rd)



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
275-LB REGION 3 QUALIFIERS...Laziek Jones (Rahway –2nd), Joe Brady (Cranford – 1st), Austin Frank (Linden – 3rd)



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## Anthony Checchio, 88, Army Veteran; Maintenance Supervisor For Town

Anthony J. Checchio, 88, of Westfield passed away on Wednesday, February 17, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Montazzoli, Italy, he came to the United States at age 5, settling in Scotch Plains. He moved to Westfield 62 years ago.

Mr. Checchio had been a maintenance supervisor with the Town of Westfield for 15 years, retiring in 1989. Prior to that, he worked as a painter and wallpaper hanger in many homes in the Westfield area.

During World War II, he served with the United States Army in the European, African and Middle Eastern Theatre. He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10136 in Mountainside.

Mr. Checchio was a communicant of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, where he also served as an usher.

Anthony was the beloved husband for 62 years of Anna Bamonte Checchio; the devoted father of Linda Gildea and her husband, William, Anthony, Jr. and Paul and his wife, Abigail, and the loving brother of Fiore, John, Frank and the late Laura. He also will be deeply missed by his four grandchildren, Melissa, Carolyn, Eric and Trisha, and his two great-grandchildren, Nicholas and Alexis.

A Mass of Christian Burial was

offered on Monday, February 22, at the Holy Trinity Church of Westfield. Burial took place at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield. Memorial donations may be made in his name to the Center for Hope Hospice, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

February 25, 2010

### Ruth Van Benschoten

Ruth L. Van Benschoten, 93, died on Monday, February 22, in Easton, Pa.

Born in Irvington, she moved to Westfield in 1946 and relocated to Easton two years ago.

Mrs. Van Benschoten was a member of Council No. 97 Daughters of America; Retired Senior Volunteer People (RSVP); the Women's Auxiliary of Union County and American Legion Post 3. She also volunteered at Children's Specialized Hospital.

Her husband, Elmer F. Van Benschoten, predeceased her in 1972.

Surviving are her sons, Richard G. and Robert F.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. today, Thursday, February 25, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. Funeral services will take place at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, February 26, at the funeral home. Interment will be private.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Westfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, N.J. 07091.

February 25, 2010

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Adjustment of the Town of Westfield, New Jersey will meet on **Monday, March 8, 2010** in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey at 7:30 p.m. to hear and consider the following appeal for variance(s) from the requirements of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance:

**Harvan Holding Co., 343 South Avenue East.** Applicant is seeking preliminary and final major site plan approval with C and D variances. The property located in the GB-2 Zone is currently used as a public garage and a car/truck rental business. Per Section 18.13 of the Land Use Ordinance, a public garage is a permitted conditional use in the GB-2 Zone. Per Section 11.27D of Land Use Ordinance, a car rental business is not a permitted use in the GB-2 Zone. The applicant is seeking D Variance relief to retain the current non-conforming use as a truck rental business. Per Section 18.04F3 a conditional use and non-conditional use on the same lot shall occupy separate buildings or structures on the lot. The applicant is seeking D variance to retain both businesses in one building. The applicant is seeking bulk variance relief from Sections 17.06, 17.07 and 17.08 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires paving, curbing and striping for parking for the truck rental business. No paving, curbing or striping is proposed. Section 17.02C.9 allows the minimum parking requirement to be determined by the Board, however, the number of parking spaces required by the Board shall not be less than the number required by the zone. The required number of parking spaces by zone is 29 spaces. Existing are 35 spaces. The applicant is seeking a variance from Section 11.17D, Permitted Uses and Structures. Any use or structure other than those uses or structures permitted in Subsection A, B or C of Section 11.27 is prohibited. Truck rental is not permitted in Sections A, B or C of Section 11.27. The applicant is seeking a variance from Section 17.13C, Use Restrictions. There shall be no parking of motor vehicles used in any business on site during regular business hours, except for short-term parking for loading and unloading, unless specific parking spaces are provided for such vehicles in excess of the spaces required by ordinance. Applicant proposes to comply with the Sign Ordinance. The applicant does not propose any signs that would not be in conformity with the Zoning Ordinance. Per Section 11.27D of Land Use Ordinance the applicant is seeking to obtain a use variance to allow for a car rental business.

**LIST OF VARIANCES REQUIRED** Variances, waivers or exceptions from certain site plan details or relief from requirements may be sought as appropriate.

Plans and Application are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**JAMES B. FLYNN**  
Attorney for Applicant  
1 T - 2/25/10, The Leader Fee: \$65.28

**Anthony Calandra, 36 Mohawk Trail.** Applicant seeks permission to construct a front porch expansion contrary to Sections 11.08E5, 11.08E6, and 11.08E5 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a front yard setback of 30.1 feet. Proposed is 27.5 feet. Ordinance requires a minimum street side yard setback for a corner property of 20 feet. Proposes is 16.4 feet. Ordinance requires a minimum side yard setback of 10 feet. Proposed is 7.6 feet.

**Jeffrey Flynn and Keiran Brown, 523 Birch Avenue.** Applicant is seeking permission to construct a one story addition contrary to Section 11.08E6 of the Land Use Ordinance. Ordinance requires a side yard setback of 10 feet. Proposed is 8.8 feet.

Variances, waivers or exceptions from certain site plan details or relief from requirements may be sought as appropriate.

Plans and application are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Kathleen A. Nemeth**  
Secretary, Board of Adjustment  
1 T - 2/25/10, The Leader Fee: \$42.84

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT sealed bids will be received by the Board of Education of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District, Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey, 07076 on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing time. Bids will be received for:

**NEW YAMAHA CONSERVATORY PIANO**

and will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter.

Bids must be made on the proposal forms in the manner designated, enclosed in a separate sealed envelope with the name and address of bidder and work bid upon noted on the outside, and must be delivered to the Secretary of the Board of Education, or the Board's designated representative at the above place on or before the hour named. The Board of Education assumes no responsibility for bids mailed or misdirected in delivery.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or waive informality in the bidding if it is in the interest of the Board of Education to do so.

Bidding shall be in conformance with the applicable requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., pertaining to the "Public School Contracts Law".

All bidders are placed on notice that they are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 127.

Specifications and full information may be obtained upon request at the Business Office of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**Anthony Del Sordi, Board Secretary**  
1 T - 2/25/10, The Times Fee: \$45.39

## — Obituaries —

### Iris Crawford Spach, 88, Was Actress, Writer, Producer and Media Consultant

Mrs. Iris Crawford Spach, formerly Iris Evelyn Crawford of Westfield, N.J., passed away on Friday, February 12, 2010. Her final days were spent in Atlanta, Ga., home of her only surviving son. She was 88.

She was born April 27, 1921, the first daughter of long-time Westfield residents the late Thomas R. and Evelyn M. Crawford.

Early in life she displayed an affinity and aptitude for the performing arts. As a child, she appeared before audiences as a ballet dancer and worked as a commercial model.

While attending Westfield High School she won the only "Key" award for being a cheerleader for three consecutive years. Mrs. Spach was a member of the Dramatic Club, Red Cross Council and Girls' Athletic Council. She also played on the hockey team, achieved second place in the badminton championship, was voted class actress and had the lead in the senior play.

After graduating from Westfield High in 1939, she received a two-year scholarship to the distinguished Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City, where she studied acting and voice. Notable fellow classmates included Gregory Peck, Eli Wallach, Tony Randall and Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. Mrs. Spach studied dance with Martha Graham and also worked as a model and sang with a dance band.

In 1942, after graduating from the Playhouse, she married her childhood sweetheart, Richard W. Spach, son of George and Josephine Spach of Westfield. At the time of their wedding, Mr. Spach was enlisted in the United States Navy and saw several east coast duty stations, with his new bride following him to each.

After Mr. Spach's naval service, the couple moved to Los Angeles, where she worked for a series of radio



Iris Crawford Spach

stations and movie studios, starting as a Girl Friday and record librarian, moving up to DJ and on-air personality, then into radio producing and commercial copywriting. At one time Mrs. Spach worked as a social secretary to Mrs. Louis B. Mayer. By 1950, she had left the

workforce to focus on raising a family. Her beloved husband died unexpectedly on August 7, 1961, and she returned to the workforce as a public relations and marketing consultant, working at national and regional levels. Her personal clients included the governors of Virginia and Nebraska, one of the very first American indoor malls (Woodbridge, N.J.), national compa-

nies and quasi-governmental agencies.

Later in the 1960s, using the professional name of "Iris Crawford," Mrs. Spach became a television producer, writer and on-air personality, most notably appearing on ABC affiliated WXEX-TV in Richmond, Va. For several years at WXEX-TV, she produced, wrote and hosted a two-hour daily television program of news, features and interviews. She wrote, produced and acted in television and radio commercials and made many public appearances, employing her regional celebrity to promote worthy causes.

Mrs. Spach was active in politics and was the sole impetus of legislation introduced in both houses of the United States Congress in the mid 1960s intended to remove the earned income limit on widows receiving Social Security survivor's benefits.

A son, Richard W. Spach, Jr., predeceased her in 1973.

She is survived by two sisters, Jill Crawford Mudge Stoll of Orange, Calif. and Polly Crawford Wilcox of Bristol, Conn.; a son, Thomas J. Spach, married to Bunny R. Vrooman, of Atlanta, Ga.; a granddaughter, Christina F. Spach of Hollywood, Calif.; five nieces and five nephews; 11 great-nieces and 10 great-nephews.

Her remains will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., next to her beloved husband, during a memorial service on August 7, 2010.

February 25, 2010

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Westfield Zoning Board of Adjustment (the "Board") will hold a public hearing at its meeting on March 8, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the Town of Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, to review and act upon an appeal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(a) and a request for interpretation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(b) ("Application") filed by The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company LLC ("Stop & Shop"). Stop & Shop is the owner of certain property located at 195, 203, 219, and 233 Elm Street, which has been designated on the Town of Westfield Tax Map as Block 2505, Lots 4, 5, 6, and 7 (the "Property"). The Property is located in the GB-1 General Business Zone.

Stop & Shop proposes to demolish the existing buildings on Lots 6 and 7, to expand and improve the existing retail supermarket building, to expand the parking area onto Lots 6 and 7, and to make other site improvements. In anticipation of its development application, Stop & Shop requested a determination from Kathleen Neville, Zoning Officer, that (1) parking located within the provided street side yard requires only a variance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(c) ("c" variance); (2) a monument sign requires only a "c" variance; (3) locating food preparation and other support activities in the supermarket's basement requires only a "c" variance; (4) outdoor display of merchandise, without outdoor sales, does not require a variance; and (5) cart corrals located in the parking lot do not require a variance. By a determination dated December 30, 2009 ("Determination"), the Zoning Officer determined that although the cart corrals did not require a variance, the parking in the provided street side yard, a monument sign, locating food preparation in the basement, and having outdoor display of seasonal merchandise all would require a variance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70(d) ("d" variance).

By this Application, Stop & Shop requests that the Board (1) reverse the Zoning Officer's Determination with respect to parking in the street side yard, signage, basement activities, and outdoor display of seasonal merchandise; (2) issue an interpretation that only "c" variances are required in those four instances; and (3) issue an interpretation confirming that cart corrals do not require variance relief. Stop & Shop reserves the right to seek, and requests that this Application be deemed amended to include and that the Board grant, any additional determinations, approvals, variances, waivers or exceptions reflected in the filed plans and materials (as same may be further amended from time to time without further notice) and as may be determined to be necessary during the review and processing of the Application.

When this case is called, interested parties may appear, either in person or by attorney, and present any questions they may have regarding this Application. The hearing may be continued without further notice on such additional dates as the Board may determine. The Application and Determination, together with supporting plans, documents, and other materials, will be available for public inspection, at least 10 days prior to the hearing, at the Board offices, located in the Westfield Engineering Department, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey, during regular business hours.

**THE STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET COMPANY LLC**  
By: Howard D. Geneslaw, Esq.  
Gibbons PC

One Gateway Center  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(973) 596-4500

1 T - 2/25/10, The Leader Fee: \$78.54

## Margaret Forgas Memorial Service Set Saturday at St. Paul's Church

Margaret F. Forgas, 94, of Westfield died on Thursday, January 14, 2010, in the Emergency Room of Overlook Hospital in Summit.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield. A reception will follow.

Born in Scobeyville, N.J. on August 23, 1915, she was the daughter of Michael and Mary Hawrysz Bordini. She had lived in Asbury Park, Long Branch and Mountainside before moving to Westfield in June 1952.

She had worked as a commercial artist, for the U.S. Postal Service for 15 years, for the Westfield Police Department for 18 years and as a bookkeeper for 10 years for Children's Specialized Hospital and for Overlook Hospital.

Mrs. Forgas received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pratt Institute. She also held a LPN degree.

She was a founding member of the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Mountainside and the Nomahegan Swim Club in Westfield.

Mrs. Forgas was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, the Temple Emanu-El Friendship Group and the AARP, all of Westfield, as well as the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church and Rosary Society, the Mountainside Active Retirees and the Mountainside Seniors, and was a past member of the Mountainside Rescue Squad. She also gave over 25 years of service to Overlook Hospital as a volunteer and minister.

She was married for more than 60 years to Lawrence C. Forgas, who died in 1998.

Surviving are two sons, Robert L. Forgas of Mountainside and James A. Forgas of Westfield, and two grandchildren.

February 25, 2010

## Mary Ellen Albertson, Was Director Of American Red Cross Chapter

Mary Ellen Albertson passed away on Monday, February 22, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

Born in Carteret, she moved to Westfield in 1959.

Mrs. Albertson had been a director at the American Red Cross Plainfield Chapter for many years. She retired several years ago.

She was a former member of the Woman's Club of Westfield.

Her husband, Frederick J., and her granddaughter, Jennifer, predeceased her.

Surviving are her son, Frederick M., and his wife, Farleigh. She also will be deeply missed by her grandchildren, Roger, Nathan and Megan

Fahrenbach, and also her four great-granddaughters.



Mary Ellen Albertson

A memorial mass will be held at 10 a.m. today, Thursday, February 25, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Interment will be private.

Arrangements are by the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Helping Hands and Hearts, St. Helen's Parish Center, 1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, N.J. 07090.

February 25, 2010

## William Elmendorf, 86, Merck Retiree; Old Guard and Tennis Club Member

William F. Elmendorf, 86, of Medford, N.J., formerly of Westfield, died on Sunday, February 14, at Medford Leas in Medford, surrounded by his family.

Born November 17, 1923, he graduated from Evansville University, did graduate work at Cornell University and obtained an MBA from Rutgers University. He had been employed with Merck & Co., Inc. in Rahway for 40 years before retiring.

He was a member of the First United

Methodist Church of Westfield, the Westfield Old Guard and the Westfield Tennis Club.

He was the beloved husband for 62 years of Eleanor Tashjian Elmendorf; the loving father of Charlotte Seidel, Paul, Charles and David; grandfather of Jessica and Daniel Seidel and Caitlin, Elizabeth, Charles, James and Darian Elmendorf, and great-grandfather of Abigail Becker.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. at Medford Leas in Medford.

Donations may be made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund of the First United Methodist Church, 2 Hartford Road, Medford, N.J. 08055 or to Medford Leas Reserve Fund, Medford Leas, 1 Medford Leas Way, Medford, N.J. 08055.

February 25, 2010

### Louis J. Scalza, 84

Louis Joseph Scalza, 84, of Westfield died on Monday, February 22, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

Born in Jersey City, he lived in Westfield since 1952.

Louis served his country in the United States Navy during World War II. He was a member of the Old Guard in Westfield.

Prior to his retirement, Louis had a distinguished career at Hyatt Roller Bearing, a division of General Motors, for more than 40 years.

He was predeceased by his wife, Helen, in 2006 and by a daughter, Karen Scalza.

Surviving are his children, Louis M., Patricia Koerner, Carol Ann Villalobos, Linda Orner and Jeanne Scalza, and eight grandchildren.

Visitation will take place tomorrow, Friday, February 26, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 27, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Entombment will follow at Woodbridge Memorial Gardens in Woodbridge.

February 25, 2010

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES 1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 605 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on **3/4/10**, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.1 et seq.; in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

**Underground Electrical Structures North 2010; Counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren; 100% State; DP No: 10413**

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 N.J.A.C. 17:27. The awarded bidder must provide a completed Contractor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form(s) according to both P.L. 2205, C.51 and Executive Order No. 117 within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Executive Order No. 117 is effective on November 15, 2008. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue, Business Registration, as of the date of bids. The awarded bidder must provide proof of valid business registration within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act", N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance, at the time of bid. The awarded bidder must provide proof of PWCR within fourteen (14) days from the award date.

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the project award.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website [www.bids.com](http://www.bids.com). You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on the website. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express. Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Steri Court Route 79 and Daniels Way 1 Executive Campus Rt 70W  
Mt. Arlington, NJ Freehold, NJ Cherry Hill, NJ  
973-770-5141 732-308-4025 856-486-6624

3 T - 2/11/10, 2/18/10 and 2/25/10, The Leader Fee: \$195.84

## Gray Funeral Homes

Since 1897



Begun in 1876 by William Gray, in Cranford and later Incorporated in 1897 as the Gray Burial & Cremation Company.

Today, known by many simply as Gray's. We continue to provide the personal service that began with Mr. Gray, whether it be for burial or cremation.

Gray Funeral Home  
318 East Broad St.  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
William A. Doyle Mgr.  
NJ Lic. Number 2325  
(908)-233-0143

Gray Memorial Funeral Home  
12 Springfield Ave.  
Cranford, NJ 07016  
Dale R. Schoustra Mgr.  
NJ Lic. Number 3707  
(908)-276-0092

Charles J. Tombs  
NJ Lic. Number 4006  
Director

[www.grayfuneralhomes.com](http://www.grayfuneralhomes.com)



## Education News

### PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL Second Marking Period

SCOTCH PLAINS – Park Middle School Principal Lisa Reimbias announced the school's second marking period honor roll.

#### Sixth Grade

##### Distinguished Honor Roll

Jamie Abar, Noelle Alber, Matthew Auda, Madeleine Bebout, Briana Bennett, Isabella Bernardo, Shay Blechinger-Slocum, Emma Calabrese, Zachary Carter, Nicholas Cheney, Paul Cherubini, Chloe Cimino, Vincent Conti, Jackson Cooney, Christian Cornejo, Kyle Coupe, Margaret DiVirgilio, Emma Duggan, Maria Duque, Brendan Fanning, Samantha Ferrara, Darya Ganzha, Ethan Graham, Liam Guarnuccio, Irem Gure, Zachary Halma, Cameron Heisey, Julian Iarussi, Eva Isaacs, Annemarie Kearns, Maxwell Kearns, Nolan Kearns, Megan Kietlyka, Brian Kilcullen, Jonathan Kriney, Kaavya Krishna Kumar, Rachel Lambert, George Leichtling, Thomas Leistikow, Grace Lesce, Sierra Lesiak, Giancarlo Lorusso, Stefany Lucas, Owen Martin, Michelle Marvosa, Darren Mascioli, Alyssa Miguelfino, Mark Mitai, James Murphy, Kathryn Musso, Amanda Ni, Saleena Nival, Tyler O'Brien, Faegan Peck, Anne Pierce, Cara Provenzano, Geneva Rata, Connor Reddington, Caroline Rieck, Olivia Roberts, Mariel Sass, Matthew Schweizer, Caroline Scobee, Nikah Segulin, Alyssa Shann, James Sherry, Mary Stovall, Rohan Suresh, Kiersten Swaak, Lauren Szpond, Jack Valian, Bridget Van Natta, Zoe Verrico, Samiksha Vittalraj, Connor Walsh, Caroline Yessman, Gali Zaborowski, Linda Zhang, Hang Zheng

#### Sixth Grade Honor Roll

Dylan Abar, Matthew Abdy, Catherine Acito, Alfonso Amore, Donald Ehrnick, Jordan Belford, William Benavides, Joseph Bianco, Frederick Blocker, Zoe Buckridge, Sean Cheney, Amanda Ciurciu, Casey Daudelin, Bianca DeMaria, Mark Devine-Gelling, James DiFrancesco, Frank DiNizio, Taylor Downing, Courtney Dreyfus, Serah El Naggar, Abraham Elseht, Zakary Elseht, Paloma Epp, Megan Ericksen, Jessica Ferrara, Dominic Gannon, Stacy Garzon, Heather Goeller, Ian Gordon, Nathaniel Graham, Gabriela Guerrero, Dakota Halma, Kyrollos Hanna, Maya Jegede, Shreya Kachroo, Lauren Kaminkas, Selin Kargi, Vance Kleemeyer, Gayle Kosciulek, Adam Koskova, Gregory Kraus, Gabriela MacPherson, Caitlyn Mannino, Thomas Margaritondo, John Marquardt, Kayla Martinez, Andrew Mathews, Kevin MAlindin, Aaron McGriff, Connor McSherry, Sean Meisch, Tatiana Melendez, Brandon Miguelfino, Zakary Miller, Micayla Mirabella, Timothy Mitchell, Jake Mruczinski, Madalyn Ostrander, Julianne Peccarelli, George Ramos, Dylan Redfield, Daniel Reimers, Jennifer Rivera, Sarah Rivera, Adrian Rivero, Nicholas Robins, Katherine Seemey, Thomas Seidel, Kelly Smetzer, Aboluwarin Songonuga, Matthew Sosnowski, Nicholas Stone, Belaf Syed, James Taylor, James Tenzer, Adesh

### Susquehanna Student Makes Dean's List

WESTFIELD – Joseph Schurig of Westfield was named to Susquehanna University's dean's list for the fall 2009 semester. The dean's list recognizes students who achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or higher out of a possible 4.0 for the semester. To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Joseph, a junior majoring in communications with an emphasis in corporate communications, is a 2007 graduate of Westfield Senior High School and the son of Joseph and Karen Schurig.

### Rotary Spearheads

#### \$10K in Haiti-Giving

SCOTCH PLAINS – Students at the Brunner Elementary School in Fanwood-Scotch Plains raised more than \$2,700 for Haiti earthquake relief and bestowed that donation through Rotary International's ShelterBox program.

Brunner Principal Jodi Frank presented the donation to local Rotarian Pat Plante, bringing the total support raised by the Rotary Club of Fanwood Scotch Plains to more than \$10,000.

Lining the school hallway are "Links of Love," each loop representing a dollar donated by a student, teacher or staff member at the Brunner school. Ms. Frank has enlisted fundraising at other schools in the district, and donations are likely to grow.

ShelterBox is a 125-pound case of cooking equipment, bedding, 10-person tent and sanitary gear enabling up to 10 people to subsist for months following a disaster rendering them homeless. Rotary International reports 7,000 ShelterBox deliveries to date to the island of Haiti, representing a total donation worth \$7 million.



**SUPER BUSY...**The fourth grade class at St. Bartholomew Academy has been super busy the past few weeks following the steps of the writing process to create convincing and creative advertisements for products they invented. The dynamic presentations created by the students were "aired" on a SmartBoard during the classroom Super Bowl party while students "tailgated" and enjoyed each other's presentations. These entrepreneurs certainly have a bright future! St. Bartholomew Academy serves students in grades PreK through 8 at 2032 Westfield Avenue in Scotch Plains. To learn more about the school, visit stbacademy.org.

Thanawala, Kate Traina, Tinnapat Triamart, Dante Trigo, Amani Williams, Erik Willis, Joseph Witkowski, Georganne Yarbenet, Brianna Young, Natalie Zimmermann

#### Seventh Grade

##### Distinguished Honor Roll

Mrudhula Baskaran, Jacob Beckerman, Samantha Bordinan, Kayla Brady, Morgan Bransky, Bryan Buchanan, Shannon Burns, Jamie Bush, Rachel Butler, Melissa Calabria, Jazmyn Carrington, Andrew Ciccarino, Jodie Cornwell, Roland Crystal, Thomas Cunningham, Steven Davies, Ariana Donaldson, Alexandra Duke, Elisabeth Duke, Emily Fidlou, Alexandra Gale, Sophie Giuliani, Hannah Glock, Shivanee Hendre, Elizabeth Hom, Abigail Jenkinson, Helen Johns, Amanda Karacsony, Kaitlyn Killeen, Elizabeth Lamorte- Wright, Michael Lee, Zachary Lipshitz, Lauren Lockfeld, Evelyn Logie, Alyssa Lopez, Rigel Madraswalla, Ryan McSherry, Anita Mo, Nicole Nilsen, Grace O'Brien, Keenan Porter, John Quigley, Jeffrey Rodgers, Jason Rosen, Khashinee Ruangsirin, Danielle Scheu, Shannon Shaw, Katarzyna Sierant, Steven Skutish, Connor Smith, Elisa Staniec, Raina Tellado, Philicia Tice, Megan Tspas, Alyssa Webster, Ethan Yoo, Lina Zikas

#### 7th Grade Honor Roll

Carl Acito, Bruce Arthur, Tori Balianico, Andrew Barcia, Brianna Bardwil, James Beime, Colin Brett, Olivia Brown, Taylor Brown, John Bruckman, Megan Burke, Diamond Carrington, Allyson Cerini, Corina Checchio, Abraham Cho, Stephen Crawford, Justin Cryer, Mallory Cunningham, Natalie Daniele, Connor Danik, Nicholas D'Apuzzo, Christopher Decker, Tyler Dencker, Thabitha Dwumfour, Daniel Farrell, Daniel Federico, Christian Germano, Daniel Haezout, Jeffrey Hasiak, Timothy Hesson, William Hochman, Brian Howard, Tyler Hubbert, Danielle Hurtado, Angela Ignomirelli, Matthew Irsinger, Christian Isola, Pierce Johnston, Marissa Lamastra, Patrick Lay, David Leong, Jeffrey Lieblich, Sasha Lofton, Emily Lonan, Michaela Lowe, Jessica Luong, Grace Makowski, Eric Manfra, Hannah Matyssek, William McDuffie, Alyson McGrath, Gabriel Migliore, Josh Mineo, Alexander Mirabella, John Musso, Christine Nocom, Kelsey O'Connor, Benjamin Pacaja, Ashish Patel, Alan Payne, Kayla Pennington, Brianna Peterson, Isabel Quinones, Megan Rickman, Gianna Rosello, Todd Ryan, Anthony Savoca, Jeremy Scialdini, Marcus Shaw, John Sheehy, Christopher Sheil, Maurice Shell, Kola Shomade, Amber Simmons, Peter Spiridigiozzi, William Stoll, Amanda Suhovsky, Garrett Szeto, Andrew Tomasulo, David Valian, Paige VanBuskirk, Phoebe Wahby, John Walling, Christopher Wasiecko, Thomas Weideli, Kobe White, Rachel Williams, Jerry Zhu, Abigail Ziobro

#### Eighth Grade

##### Distinguished Honor Roll

Nada Amer, Michael Auda, Samuel Bebout, Christopher Bubnov, Kathryn Bumiller, Sara Calabrese, Kelsey Coupe, Caroline Culp, Kathryn Cunningham, Michael DiNizo, Christina Fasolas, Sarah Fischmann, Melissa Harris, Scott Hasiak, Eric Hong, Luke Korgan, Ryan Kalkstein, Bridget Kelly, Lauren Kilcullen, Austin Kwinta, Yi Lin, Amanda Mach, Emily Margulies, Ross Mulcahy, Heather Mullen, Elizabeth Nardone, Olivia Paladino, Amy Palumbo, Brendan Pierce, Stephanie Plant, Angela Rastelli, James Schetelich, Natasha Segulin, Emma Sherry, Jaclyn Villane, Noga Zaborowski, Eve Zhubrinski, Arielle Zúaro

#### Eighth Grade Honor Roll

Nathan Abdy, Lucio Avelar, Joseph Bonaccorso, Brennan Brady, Grant Brown, Mary Brunfield, Ian Cappelli, Connor Culp, Mary Coloney, Nicole Conti, Liam Cummings, Dariana DeVore, Nicholas DeBellis, Andrew DeBiase, Tessa DeMaria, Ryan DePaul, Dominick DiFrancesco, Kaven Dimeo, Panayotis Dimopoulos, Josie Dunning, Sean Duthie, Benjamin Evans, Victoria Germano, Devin Glover, Javier Guerrero, Julie Haggan, Emma Hannis-Trowbridge, Michele Hom, Nicole Horn, Peter Hsiao, Kiera Jacob, Paras Jha, Nicole Johnson, Conor Kelly, Jillian Lindenberg, Tatiyana Lofton, Jennifer Lynch, Thomas Madan, Jason Mazetti, Laura McGovern, Matthew McGowan, Lauren McMorro, Andrea McNeely, Jennifer Mintz, Jacob Monzella, Taylor Moon, Andrew Murphy, Amy Jo Nicastro, Ryan Nival, Anthony Nizzardo, Christina O'Connor, Emilia O'Leary, Adam Piekutowski, Shannon Reilly, Michelle Rinaldo, Gabriella Rojas, Darek Rola-Zarzor, Hannah Rosado, Caroline Ross, Brian Rubin, Kelly Ruggieri, Matthew Sass, Eugene Siskoske, Ashley Tilliam, Eric Tannenbaum, Andrew Warne, Tajah Williams, Kathryn Zawodniak

### WHS Class of 1984

#### Plans 25th Reunion

WESTFIELD – The Westfield High School Class of 1984 has scheduled its 25th reunion at The Westwood in Garwood on October 16. To learn more, view westfieldhighclassof1984.com or join the Facebook group Westfield High School Class of 1984 Reunion to keep posted on registration information, hotels and more specific information.

The Reunion Committee is comprised of Sarah Jane Davis Harvey, Melissa Rogers Ford, Carolyn Watts and Darin Pinto. To learn more, call (908) 675-6112.



**THE MIGHTY PEN...**Fanwood residents Ann Minski and husband Leslie read from the script of *Love Letters* at The Fanwood Memorial Library's fundraiser on Valentine's Day. The play, a series of memos and letters, revealed Melissa and Andrew's personalities and their mercurial relationship over 50 years.

## TAKE THE STAGE

### Sharing Love Letters Resonates True Moments of Life

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY  
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

FANWOOD – During an age in which tweets, IM's and e-mails have seemingly replaced snail mail, it was heart-warming to tag along vicariously on a journey of friendship and love through the reading of fictional letters on Valentine's Day.

Fanwood residents and professional actors Ann Minski and Leslie Minski read *Love Letters*, A.R. Gurney's Pulitzer Prize-nominated play to two appreciative audiences. The gifted husband-and-wife duo presented the play in back-to-back performances in The Chelsea in Fanwood as a fundraiser for the Fanwood Memorial Library.

The letters take Melissa and Andrew through years of friendship, exploring their various comments on the world around them from elementary school, boarding school and college to life as adults.

Andrew, a well-tempered conservative, tells the quirky, outspoken, rebellious Melissa that their letters have been his "strength and salvation" in their 50-year friendship. His trusty Parker 51 pen and bottle of ink give him solace in all points of his life. Even when Melissa encourages him to replace the pen with a telephone call, he confesses, "I feel like a true lover when I write to you."

This isn't the first time these two talented actors performed the Gurney work to local audiences. Four years earlier, they presented it in the Fanwood Library as a fundraiser.

"In the library setting, we were surrounded by books, and it was a whole different feel," Mr. Minski said in a short interview between the 1 and the 5 p.m. performances. The Chelsea in Fanwood donated its cozy common reception room, where the actors sat at

a tall black table with matching bar stools.

After the reading, Mr. and Mrs. Minski greeted the audience members informally while light refreshments were offered.

When asked how the actors handled potentially stalemate moments without a director as referee, Mr. Minski smiled enigmatically and said, "I can't speak for Ann, but I think she would defer to my judgment in that event only because I have quite a bit of directing experience."

Involved with professional theater his whole life, Mr. Minski was last seen on Broadway in the musical *A Tale of Two Cities*. His wife Ann has served as co-director of the Summer Drama Club for 11 years, is a trustee of the Fanwood Memorial Library and a fourth grade teacher at McKinley School in Westfield.

Because of their busy schedules, Mrs. Minski said that the only time they got to rehearse the play – that was written to be read, not memorized – was at 6 a.m.

"It was quiet at that hour, and it seemed to be the only time we could get our schedules together," she explained. Her favorite portion of *Love Letters* was the beginning of the show when the two characters are writing notes back and forth as third graders.

"I loved being children together," she said. "How many times do you get to experience that?"

The poignancy of the play, Mrs. Minski feels, is the fact that Andrew and Melissa never get to realize fully the potential of their relationship.

"It gets me that their lives keep missing one another," she said.

It is that very fact that resonated with audiences and had them wiping their eyes by the end of the moving performances.

## Thriller *Dial M for Murder* Opens March 6 at WCP

WESTFIELD – Westfield Community Players (WCP) continues its season with Frederick Knott's thriller *Dial M for Murder*. The show opens at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 6, and continues March 13, 20, 26 and 27, with a matinee on Sunday, March 14, at 3 p.m.

Director Steve Lemenille is putting the cast through final rehearsals and is assisted by stage manager Barbara Ruban and producer Lucille Bills of Scotch Plains.

This thriller presents A.J. Liana as Tony Wendice, who has married Margot (Alexandra Drori) for her money and now plans to murder her for the same reason.

As the arranged murder takes place, Margot survives by killing the murderer. Husband Tony, seizing the opportunity, twists the story to get his wife convicted for killing the hired killer.

#### SHERIFF'S SALE

SHERIFF'S FILE NO.: CH-10000699  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
UNION COUNTY  
DOCKET NO. F-40581-08

Plaintiff: CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC  
VS.  
Defendant: VICTOR DADILLA

Writ of Execution: 12/01/2009  
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is: \*\*\*Three Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three and 07/100\*\*\* \$325,463.07  
The property to be sold is located in the Borough of Garwood, County of Union and State of New Jersey.

Commonly known as: 269 4th Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey 07027  
Tax Lot No. 3 in Block No. 203  
Dimension of Lot Approximately: 50 x 100  
Nearest Cross Street: Cedar Street  
Beginning at a point in the Southerly line of Fourth Avenue distant 100.00 feet easterly along said side of Fourth Avenue from its Intersection with the Easterly side of Cedar Street; thence

Prior Liens/Encumbrances  
Total as of December 22, 2009: \$0.00  
Total Upset: \*\*\*Three Hundred Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven and 78/100\*\*\* \$364,437.76 together with lawful interest and costs.

Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person's claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale for any length of time without further advertisement.

Ralph Froehlich  
Sheriff

Attorney: FEIN, SUCH, KAHN, & SHEPARD, PC  
7 CENTURY DRIVE  
SUITE 201  
PARSIIPPANY, NEW JERSEY 07054  
(973) 538-4700  
4/1 - 2/18, 2/25, 3/4  
& 3/11/10

Fee: \$165.24

#### SHERIFF'S SALE

SHERIFF'S FILE NO.: CH-10000493  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
UNION COUNTY  
DOCKET NO. F-47370-08

Plaintiff: INDYMAC BANK, FSB  
VS.  
Defendant: ROBIN V BROWN

Writ of Execution: 03/03/2010  
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is: \*\*\*Four Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Five and 74/100\*\*\* \$489,505.74

The property to be sold is located in the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union and State of New Jersey.

Commonly known as: 516 Rolling Peaks Way, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

Tax Lot No. 12 in Block No. 6001

Dimension of Lot Approximately: .310 AC

Nearest Cross Street: Madison Avenue

Being known and designated as lot 23 in block 157 as shown on map entitled, "Map of Rolling Peaks" duly filed in Union County Clerk's Office on September 23, 1969 as Filed Map No. 851-A.

Prior Liens/Encumbrances  
Taxes \$2-311-22, Sewer + Penalty \$250.00  
Total as of January 4, 2010: \$2,561,222

Total Upset: \*\*\*Five Hundred Forty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety One and 68/100\*\*\* \$545,991.68 together with lawful interest and costs.

Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person's claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale for any length of time without further advertisement.

Ralph Froehlich  
Sheriff

Attorney: FEIN, SUCH, KAHN & SHEPARD, PC  
729 CENTURY DRIVE  
SUITE 201  
PARSIIPPANY, NEW JERSEY 07054  
(973) 538-4700  
4/1 - 2/18, 2/25, 3/4  
& 3/11/10

Fee: \$169.32

## A Teen Star is Born

By RENNIE WOLTERS  
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – Westfield High School (WHS) junior Catalina Gaglioti is set to release her first pop album, *Catalina*, on Friday, March 5, at a gala event at the Westwood in Garwood. An exclusive affair, the CD release party will unveil the vocal talent of Westfield's most up-and-coming young performer.

Catalina is scheduled to showcase a few songs off her album at the event, including her favorite, "Ready for Love to Come."

Her repertoire ranges from fun pop songs to beautiful ballads, including a mature and vocally challenging love song, "Return Again."

"It's very youthful and fun," Catalina said of her album. "I feel like it's an accurate representation of my personality. ... Every song spoke to who I am."

Endorsed by her agent, Eugene Foley of Foley Entertainment, Catalina plans to launch a rigorous marketing campaign to expand her fan base beyond the Union County area by appearing on regional radio and television talk shows. Her new website, officialcatalina.com, exposes her music both nationally and internationally.

Although Catalina has performed for years, her break came when she won the National High School Teen Idol competition in 2008, performing a flawless rendition of *Phantom of the Opera*'s "Think of Me."

As first-place champion, Catalina won the opportunity to record an original song with record producer Blake Althen of Human Factor, thus launching her professional solo career and setting the gears in motion for the release of her first album.

"When it comes to rock vocal performance, she knows exactly what she wants to do," Mr. Althen said. "For a young artist, this can be really rare."

"It's so much of who she is," said June Gaglioti, Catalina's mother. "Just to be in this place is a culmination of her whole youth."

Catalina began her musical career at the age of 5 in local community theatre and moved on to roles at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, earning a nod for the Paper Mill Rising Star Award.

Catalina studied opera performance under the guidance of a private tutor since the age of 10 and has since appeared at the September 11 Memorial at Liberty State Park in Jersey City and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

Despite her operatic training, Catalina

said, "I've always had an attraction toward pop/rock music. ... I want to go for what I have the most passion for."

A committed student, Catalina holds office as president of the Class of 2011. She represents her peers as a member of the Student Council and guides younger students as a member of the Transition Project geared toward incoming first-year students.

Peter Surace, a WHS junior and fan of Catalina's music, said Catalina exemplifies a professionalism and stage presence that is inspiring to him.

"She definitely has a future," Peter said. "It's not a matter of if; it's a matter of when."

Catalina describes education as valuable and plans to attend college to pursue acting or music business, but she intends to keep performance at the top of her priorities.

Her upcoming musical endeavors include a role as Rosa in the WHS spring production of *Mystery of Edwin Drood*, March 11 to 13, and a possible "American Idol" audition this summer.

Catalina said her priorities for this year include the official launch of her album and a dedicated concentration on expanding her fan base and marketing her product.

"It's about getting out there and being seen and being heard," she said.

Catalina's music is on sale on iTunes, cdbaby.com and at June Bug Records. Fans can follow her on MySpace, Facebook and officialcatalina.com.

## WSO Tango

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

intimate as a result. The strings seemed to creep along, as the piece led into a final bandoneón solo.

While the evening could have ended here, after a 15-minute intermission, the orchestra returned to perform *These Worlds in Us* by Missy Mazzoli, the Music Alive; New Partnerships composer in residence with the WSO, as well as a Gershwin concerto.

While Mazzoli's piece – a touching dedication to her father, who served as a soldier in Vietnam – was performed well, neither it nor the concerto particularly fit in with the theme of the evening, and after the earlier performances, it felt slightly tacked on, especially the concerto, which pushed the evening past two and a half hours.

Still, the night was enthralling, successfully marrying Argentinean folk music and crisp symphonic sound.



ONCE UPON A TIME...The cast and crew of Roosevelt Intermediate School have rehearsed for weeks for the spring musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*. The show runs March 5, 6 and 7, with the Sunday matinee (March 7) having a special promotion for kids: Wear pajamas and receive a free bag of candy. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by contacting dhirsch@corptalkonline.com or (908) 789-4560.

## Musicales Welcomes Organist Barbara Thomson

WESTFIELD – The First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer Street, will present the third of its Mid-Day Musicales concerts for this season with a program by organist Barbara Thomson on Wednesday, March 3, at noon. These free, half-hour concerts are presented in the church sanctuary on Wednesdays during the church seasons of Advent and Lent.

Dr. Thomson has performed across the United States and in Austria, Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Yugoslavia. Her performances have included recitals at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, the Riverside Church and Trinity

Church Wall Street, N.Y., and the National Presbyterian Church and the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

She has performed with the Westfield Symphony Orchestra, the Peabody Symphony Orchestra and the North Jersey Bach Festival, and is currently the organist and director of music at the Congregational Church of Westfield, and organist and director of Music at Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston. To learn more, call (908) 233-2494.

#### SHERIFF'S SALE

SHERIFF'S FILE NO.: CH-10000644  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
UNION COUNTY

DOCKET NO. F-33313-07

Plaintiff: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF CITICORP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST INC. ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-AH2

VS.  
Defendant: KENNETH J. WICHOCKI; BARBARA A. WICHOCKI

Writ of Execution: 03/10/2010  
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is: \*\*\*Four Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty Two and 35/100\*\*\* \$482,542.35

The property to be sold is located in the Town of Westfield in the County of Union, State of New Jersey.

Commonly known as: 532 Cumberland Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Tax Lot No.: 19 in Block 2706  
Dimensions of Lot: (Approximately)

Nearest Cross Street:  
Subject to any open taxes, water/sewer, municipal or tax liens that may be due.

Tax and Prior lien info: At the time of publication taxes/sewer/water information was not available. You must check with the tax collector for exact amounts due.

The plaintiff has obtained a letter of indemnification which will insure the successful bidder at sale in respect to: Mortgage recorded 04/27/2006 in the amount of \$125,000.00

Total Upset: \*\*\*Five Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy and 53/100\*\*\* \$555,870.53 together with lawful interest and costs.

Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:



# Arts & Entertainment



MAKING TANGO FANTASY A REALITY...The passion and energy of Latin-based music were the foundation of last Saturday's Westfield Symphony Orchestra concert, "Variations on a Latin Beat," performed at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. The night featured tango masters Carolina Jaurena and Diego Blanco and their company of dancers, who all took the stage for a multifaceted "Tango Fantasy."

## Westfield Symphony Makes 'Tango Fantasy' a Reality

**By ERIC NIERSTEDT**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

RAHWAY — On Saturday night, the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) came to Rahway to present a different type of performance at the Union County Performing Arts Center. "Variations on a Latin Beat" saw the orchestra performing tango music with dancers onstage to complement the music.

The evening began, perhaps in an Olympic nod, with "The Star Spangled Banner," conducted by Westfield High School senior Michael Rosin. Despite, or perhaps because of, his youth, Michael conducted the orchestra with tremendous energy and movement, even jumping a few times to guide the musicians.

Afterwards, the night began properly with Manuel De Falla's "Three Cornered Hat, Suite #2," an appropriate selection given the nature of the evening. The three-movement piece began with "The Neighbors"; violins led the orchestra in music that called to mind a busy street in early Spain.

However, a darker undertone began to build and swiftly took over. The most impressive part of the piece was when the orchestra used its strings to simulate the strumming of a guitar.

The second movement, "The Miller's Dance," was based on two concepts. The first was to build a foot-stomping melody, done through the dramatic string and horn intro, as well as the percussion's furious pounding. The second was a slow and haunting piece for the oboe.

The "Hat" ended with "The Dance," which began dramatically and tensely but then shifted into an up-tempo sound. The sweeping movements of the piece made it easy for the audience to imagine a dance on stage at that very movement.

After the "Hat," the evening's main focus — "Tango Fantasy" — began. The orchestra was joined by bandoneonist (the bandoneon is similar to a concertina, an accordion-like instrument) Hector del Curto and the featured dancers, including Carolina Jaurena and Diego Blanco.

"La Comparsita" started in a minor key and the bandoneon's tones on the edges. The five dancers effortlessly glided on the stage, almost ballet-like, as the music began to slow then moved to a more tango-like beat. The dancer's

## Roosevelt to Present Once Upon a Mattress

WESTFIELD — Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield will present *Once Upon a Mattress*, an American classic that puts a modern twist on the story of "The Princess and the Pea," as the annual spring musical.

Opening March 5, the show runs through the weekend, with performances Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 7, at 2 p.m. The school is located at 301 Clark Street.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Once Upon a Mattress* opened on Broadway in 1959, launching the career of Carol Burnett, who later starred in the movie version as the queen. Sarah Jessica Parker starred in the revival in 1996, a production that won the Tony Award. The Roosevelt performance promises to capture all the laughter and cheer that has made this show a perennial favorite.

"I'm just thrilled with the talented cast and crew," said Director Annie Brzozowski, who is also a teacher at Jefferson School. "The performers have been working so hard on song and dance numbers that are sure to appeal to

## Roth, Greenway and Harris To Benefit Contact We Care

WESTFIELD — The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series continues its 10th season by presenting three artists — David Roth, Greg Greenway and Reggie Harris — on a triple bill, on Saturday, February 27. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m., and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20 online and \$24 at the door.

Due to scheduling conflicts, this concert will take place at a special location: the First Baptist Church of Westfield (across from Bank of America) at 170 Elm Street in Westfield. This performance will benefit Contact We Care, based in Westfield. Advance purchase of tick-

The Debut album now available on iTunes.

Go to [www.officialcatalina.com](http://www.officialcatalina.com) for more info.

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